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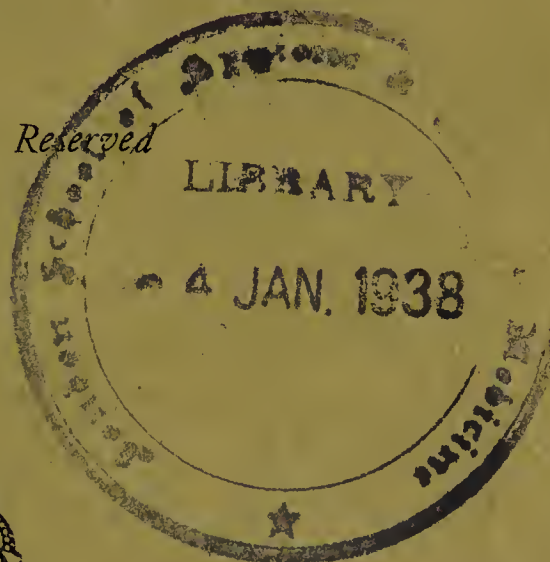
No. 1828

Annual Report on the Social and Economic
Progress of the People of

MAURITIUS, 1936

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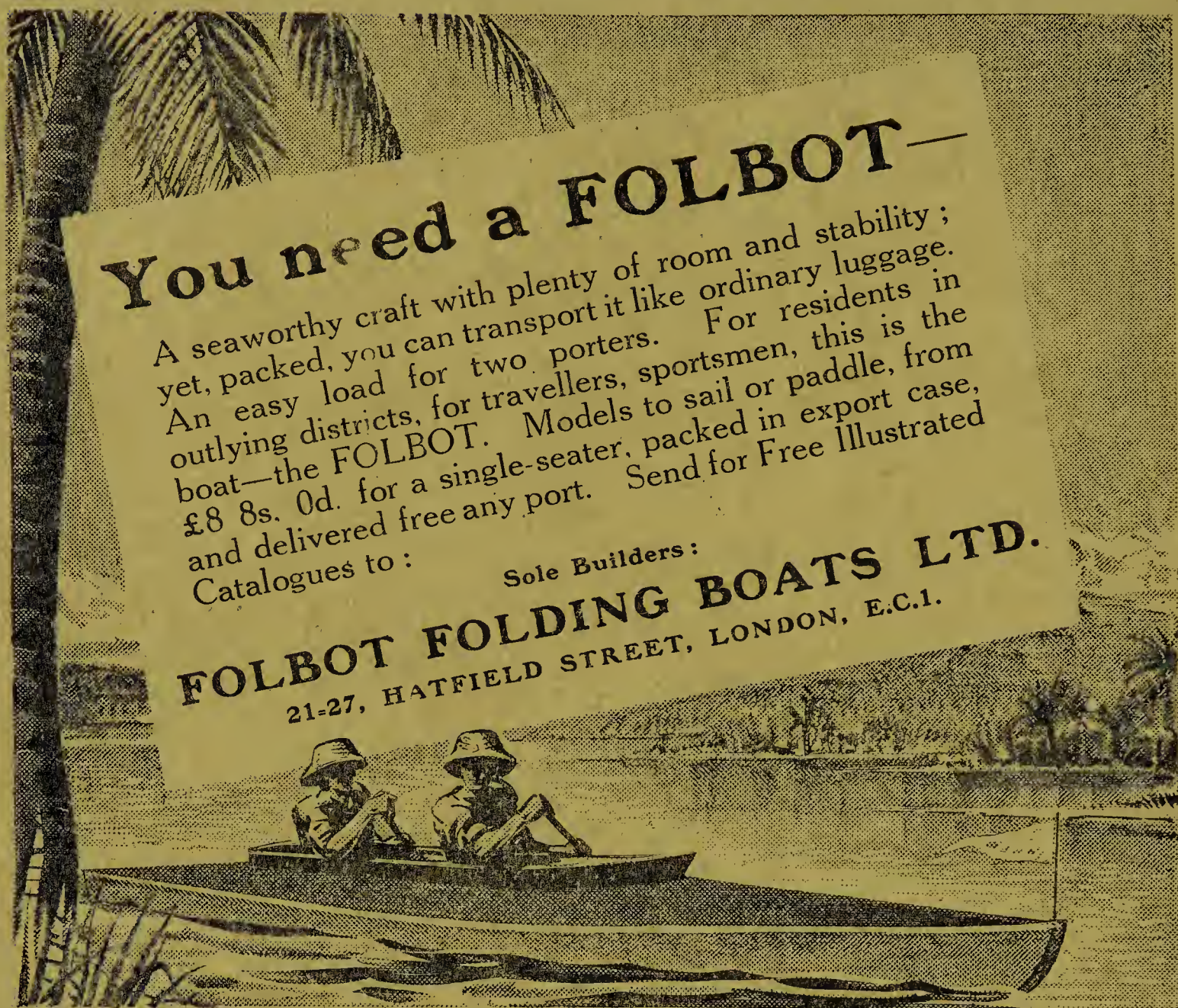
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MAURITIUS

REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF MAURITIUS FOR THE YEAR 1936

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The island of Mauritius is of volcanic origin. It is situated in the South Indian Ocean at about 1,400 miles from the east coast of Africa and lies between $19^{\circ} 50'$ and $20^{\circ} 35'$ S. latitude and between $57^{\circ} 18'$ and $57^{\circ} 48'$ E. longitude. The greatest length from north to south is nearly 39 miles and the widest breadth from east to west is 29 miles. The area of the island is about 716 square miles, exclusive of that of several small islets round the coast which measure about four square miles.

The dependencies comprise a large number of small islands between 230 and 1,200 miles away. The largest, Rodrigues, which lies 350 miles to the north-east of Mauritius, had a population estimated at 9,715 on 31st December, 1936. The estimated population of the lesser dependencies on that date was 1,327.

Mauritius is situated just within the tropics and enjoys a climate free from extremes of weather except that tropical cyclones at times cause considerable damage to crops, but rarely to buildings. For a great part of the year south-east trade winds, heavily laden with moisture, blow gently over the island tempering the tropical heat. The rain falls mostly in showers. Particularly in the summer months, December-March, the south-east winds are replaced by the light variable winds of the doldrums, which cause discomfort to Europeans, although the temperatures are not high, whereas in the winter months in the residential districts at altitudes of 1,300 to 1,800 feet the temperature may fall to 50° F. The yearly rainfall varies from 30 inches on parts of the coast to 150 inches in the upland regions.

The Mascarene Archipelago was probably known to Arab navigators at an early date and was no doubt visited later by the Malays who colonized Madagascar in the 15th and 16th centuries.

The Portuguese rediscovered it in 1507. They only used Mauritius as a port of call for repairs and supplies, and let loose pigs, goats, deer, and monkeys. It seems probable that rats were introduced in this period as they were a serious pest to the succeeding Dutch colonists.

The Dutch took possession from 1598 and were employed chiefly in exploiting the ebony. They attempted to cultivate sugar-cane, but were frustrated by rats. Although they denuded the forest of ebony they later added to the economic resources of the island by introducing useful trees, plants, and cattle. Negroes were imported for labour, and, as escape into the forests was easy, bands of runaway slaves called Maroons were formed. The combination of rats and this dangerous population of mixed, but mostly African, origin, uncontrolled by any tribal or political system, proved too much for the Dutch who abandoned the island in 1710.

The French annexed it in 1715, and by 1722 the population, apart from Maroons, amounted to 160 persons, soldiers, colonists, and slaves. Mahé de Labourdonnais was chosen to develop the Colony and arrived in 1735. In order to make the island self-supporting, he introduced manioc and maize from Brazil and promoted the extension of agriculture by introducing products from all parts of the tropical world. He especially encouraged the cultivation of sugar. He substituted animal draught for carriage by slaves, and to ensure an adequate supply of labour he brought slaves from Africa. From an encampment of straw huts he built up Port Louis into a town of public buildings, private houses, stores, shops and barracks. Labourdonnais laid the foundations of modern Mauritius.

In 1755, large herds of cattle were brought in from Madagascar. Pierre Poivre, Intendant in 1767, established the cultivation of cloves and nutmegs.

In 1810, when Mauritius became British, the population had grown from 160 to about 80,000, of whom 65,000 were slaves. Sugar was then, as now, the principal product, and when in 1825 the duty of ten shillings a hundredweight, levied on Mauritius sugar entering England (in order to protect the West Indian sugar), was remitted, cane plantations immediately developed to a large extent, fresh land was put under cultivation, roads were opened, and steam power was applied to mills. From 18,000,000 pounds the output of sugar rose to 41,000,000 pounds in 1827, and increased annually afterwards.

On the abolition of slavery, 68,613 slaves were freed, and the colonists received £2,112,632 in compensation.

In 1842, Indian immigration at the rate of 6,000 a year was approved, and this resulted in an entire change of the balance of the population.

After a terrible outbreak of malaria in 1866 the wealthier inhabitants of Port Louis moved to higher parts of the island. As a result the country towns expanded considerably and the roads were improved and extended. The railway, begun in 1859, became very popular. One of the most striking features of the progress made has been the social and economic development of the Indians who to-day own and cultivate more than two-fifths of the whole area under sugar-cane. Besides becoming gardeners and taxi-drivers, many Indians have taken to raising cows, goats, fruits and vegetables, and the supply of these essential foodstuffs is almost entirely in the hands of Indians. The section of the population they have displaced centres more and more in the towns, forming the clerk and artizan class.

From 1902 to 1909 the island suffered from severe financial depression owing to the low price of sugar. Matters were aggravated in 1902 by an outbreak of surra which caused great havoc among the draught animals, and necessitated the introduction of mechanical transport.

A Royal Commission was appointed in 1909 to investigate the resources and administration of the island and reported in 1910.

About 1911 the destructive beetle *Phytalus smithi* was discovered in the sugar-canes and more than 300 millions of these insects are now destroyed every year.

The great rise in the price of sugar which took place during and after the War brought prosperity, and both the Government and the general community were for a time far more prosperous than ever before.

As a result a number of important schemes were inaugurated, including the amelioration of sanitary conditions, the improvement of the harbour, the extension and improvement of water-supplies both for domestic purposes and for irrigation, the improvement of the railways, and the extension of education.

Unfortunately, however, from 1921 onwards the price of sugar fell, and the greatly lessened revenues of the Colony had to provide for the maintenance of many works undertaken in the better times. In 1929 the state of the sugar industry was so bad that Sir Francis Watts was appointed, at the Colony's request, to visit the island, and to report on the economic situation. The Home Government was, however, unable to approve his recommendation that a subsidy should be given to sugar to supplement the preference granted on sugar imported into the United Kingdom, though a loan was made to the planters from local funds. Despite this loan, however, and an earlier loan granted in 1929, the condition of the sugar industry at the end of 1930 was extremely serious.

The position became worse in 1931 owing to a cyclone which caused considerable damage to property and reduced the year's output of sugar by about 33 per cent. The Imperial Government guaranteed a loan of £750,000 for planters, house owners, and repairs to Government property, on condition that a Financial Commission should visit Mauritius with a view to devising measures to bring about a balanced budget. The Commission's report was published at the beginning of 1932 and immediate steps were taken to carry out measures of retrenchment and economy. The situation was again critical in 1934 owing to the effect of a severe drought on the sugar crop; but since then the Colony has had the benefit of a substantial crop in two successive years and the general situation and outlook have considerably improved.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Council of Government. The Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. The next year the Constitution was amended and a Council, including unofficial members was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and of an equal number of other persons to be taken from the chief landed population and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven unofficials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government, under the revised Constitution, was

composed of the Governor, eight *ex-officio members*, nine members nominated by the Governor and ten members elected by the population: of the latter, two represent the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight represent the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July, 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council who are to be unofficials and, although no provision to that effect is made in the Letters Patent, the nominated unofficial members have been allowed a free vote on all occasions. The new Letters Patent, however, provide that the Governor shall have power to enact legislation considered by him to be essential in the interests of good government. Debates in the Council may be either in English or French.

The Constitution of the Executive Council which was hitherto composed of the Governor and four *ex-officio* members was amended at the same time, and the former practice of appointing two unofficial members to the Council was revived.

The number of registered electors on 31st December, 1936, was 9,400. Every male person who is qualified as follows is entitled to be registered as a voter:—

- (1) has attained the age of 21 years;
- (2) is under no legal incapacity, and is in possession of his civil rights;
- (3) is a British subject by birth or naturalization;
- (4) has resided in the Colony for three years at least previous to the date of registration, and possesses one of the following qualifications:—
 - (a) is the owner of an immoveable property of the annual value of Rs.300;
 - (b) is paying rent at the rate of at least Rs.25 a month;
 - (c) is the owner of moveable property within the Colony of the value of at least Rs.300;
 - (d) is the husband of a wife, or the eldest son of a widow, possessing any one of the above qualifications;
 - (e) is in receipt of a yearly salary of at least Rs.600 or of a monthly salary of at least Rs.50; and
 - (f) is paying licence duty to the amount of at least Rs.200 a year.

The ordinary duration of the sessions of the Council of Government is eight months, from May to December, and meetings are held on alternate Tuesdays or oftener when necessary. The life of a Council is five years.

The town of Port Louis is administered by a Municipality, an institution which dates as far back as 1790. It was then called "Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis" and was instituted, as were other local Municipalities, by the "Assemblée Coloniale". These institutions are mentioned in the law of the constitution of the Ile de France promulgated by the "Assemblée Coloniale", on 21st April, 1791. Sixteen prominent men of the town acted as Councillors of the "Municipalité du Canton de Port Louis" and were denominated the "Conseil des Notables". The "Conseil des Notables" was dissolved in 1792. It was reconstituted at the end of the 18th century under the denomination of the "Conseil des Communes" and was abolished on 10th February, 1820.

The present Municipal Corporation dates from 1850, the first elections taking place at the Masonic Lodge "La Triple Esperance" from 21st to 23rd February in that year. On 24th August, 1925, the Municipal Corporation celebrated the 75th anniversary of its foundation.

The administration of the other principal townships of the Colony, viz., Curepipe, Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, and Quatre Bornes is vested in Boards of Commissioners appointed annually by the Governor. These Boards are empowered to take measures within the prescribed limits of the townships for the making, maintenance, etc., of roads, sewers, bridges, canals, and other works of public utility, for the prevention of fires, and for the proper paving and lighting of the town, etc.

In addition to the Township Boards, District Boards are appointed annually for each district. These Boards are empowered to pass regulations for the making, maintenance, and improvement of branch roads and footpaths, and for the levying of taxes in the extra urban areas.

III.—POPULATION.

The population is divided for statistical purposes into (1) the general population, i.e., Europeans and descendants of Europeans and people of African, Chinese and mixed origins, and (2) the Indian population, i.e., Indian immigrants and their descendants.

The estimated population of the island and its dependencies on the 31st December, 1936, was 410,920, showing an increase of 3,900, the rate of increase being 9.6 per thousand.

The geographical distribution of the population is shown in the following table:—

<i>Districts.</i>	<i>Area in square miles.</i>	<i>Census population, 26th April, 1931.</i>			<i>Population on 31st December, 1936.</i>		
		<i>General population.</i>	<i>Indian population.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>General population.</i>	<i>Indian population.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Port Louis ...	16½	29,832	24,603	54,435	31,360	24,552	55,912
Pamplemousses ...	69	6,847	30,000	36,847	6,624	28,843	35,467
Riviere du Rempart ...	57	5,518	25,274	30,792	5,913	26,402	32,315
Flacq ...	115	10,438	42,202	52,640	10,783	40,449	51,232
Grand Port ...	100½	12,484	36,135	48,619	12,971	35,109	48,080
Savanne ...	94½	6,645	24,456	31,101	6,869	23,899	30,768
Plaines Wilhems ...	78½	41,866	53,392	95,258	45,802	57,213	103,015
Moka ...	89	5,522	23,761	29,283	5,875	23,873	29,748
Black River ...	100	5,437	8,836	14,263	5,470	7,871	13,341
Total—Mauritius ...	720	124,589	268,649	393,238	131,667	268,211	399,878
Rodrigues ...	40	8,084	118	8,202	9,475	240	9,715
Minor Dependencies ...	47	1,354	103	1,457	1,232	95	1,327
Grand Total—Dependencies ...	87	9,438	221	9,659	10,707	335	11,042
GRAND TOTAL—Mauritius and Dependencies	—	134,027	268,870	402,897	142,374	268,546	410,920

The preponderance of males in the Indian population and that of females in the general population is shown in the next table.

			<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Mauritius—General Population	...	...	64,532	67,135	131,667
Indian	„	...	138,339	129,872	268,211
Rodrigues—General	„	...	4,627	4,848	9,475
Indian	„	...	156	84	240
Minor Dependencies—General Population	...	...	713	519	1,232
Indian	„	...	71	24	95
Total	...	...	208,438	202,482	410,920

The following tables give the number of births, deaths and still births registered in Mauritius during the last three years.

BIRTHS.

		<i>Number of births.</i>			<i>Rate per 1,000 of population.</i>		
		<i>1934.</i>	<i>1935.</i>	<i>1936.</i>	<i>1934.</i>	<i>1935.</i>	<i>1936.</i>
General Population	...	4,609	4,498	4,758	36.1	34.9	36.4
Indian	„	8,907	8,748	9,109	33.7	32.9	34.1
Whole Population	...	13,516	13,246	13,867	34.5	33.6	34.9

DEATHS.

		<i>Number of deaths.</i>			<i>Rate per 1,000 of population.</i>		
		<i>1934.</i>	<i>1935.</i>	<i>1936.</i>	<i>1934.</i>	<i>1935.</i>	<i>1936.</i>
General Population	...	2,987	2,954	3,039	23.3	22.9	23.3
Indian	„	7,082	7,491	7,461	26.8	28.2	27.9
Whole Population	...	10,069	10,445	10,500	25.7	26.5	26.4

STILL BIRTHS.

		<i>Number of still-births.</i>			<i>Rate per 100 live births.</i>		
		<i>1934.</i>	<i>1935.</i>	<i>1936.</i>	<i>1934.</i>	<i>1935.</i>	<i>1936.</i>
General Population	...	282	297	300	6.1	6.6	6.3
Indian	„	1,025	1,004	1,021	11.5	11.5	11.2
Whole Population	...	1,307	1,301	1,321	9.7	9.8	9.5

The number of deaths of infants under one year was 1,973. The infantile mortality rate was 142.3 per thousand live births registered during the year as compared with 139.4 and 129.7 for 1935 and 1934 respectively.

The marriages during the year numbered 1,991 as compared with 1,651 in 1935. The marriage rate or number of persons married to every thousand of the entire population was 10.0 against 8.4 in 1935.

The arrivals exceeded the departures by 244.

IV.—HEALTH.

The present constitution of the Medical and Health Department dates back to 1895 when under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894-5 the powers vested in the General Board of Health were transferred to the Director, Medical and Health Department.

The headquarters staff of the Department consists of the Director, the Deputy Director and the clerical and accounting staffs of the correspondence, financial and storekeeping branches.

The administrative unit of Government is the district which is the political unit as well. Every district with the exception of Black River is provided with a hospital for the reception and treatment of the sick poor. Patients from the Black River district are treated in the Victoria Hospital, Quatre Bornes, or the Civil Hospital, Port Louis. The medical and sanitary administration of each of the rural districts is entrusted to a Government Medical Officer who is in charge of the district hospital and dispensaries and who is also the Health Officer for the district. To assist him, he has a number of subordinate officers; dispensers and sanitary officers and the staff necessary for the care of the patients in the hospital. In addition to his medical and sanitary duties he has also statutory duties of a medical or sanitary nature which he carries out on behalf of the Police and Poor Law Departments. The district dispensaries are visited at regular intervals by the Government Medical Officer.

The hospitals of the Colony are divided into two groups:—

- (i) General hospitals, namely:—Civil, Victoria and Moka, totalling 626 beds, which are fully equipped for X-ray and major operative work; and
- (ii) district hospitals where only medical and midwifery cases are admitted and where minor surgery is carried out to a certain extent.

Patients who apply to the latter hospitals and require special treatment, surgical or other, are conveyed to the nearest general hospital by motor ambulance. A mental hospital and a leper hospital are also administered by the Department.

The general health of the population during 1936 has been reasonably good. There was an exceptionally good crop leading to a consequent increase in the amount of money circulating in the Colony. There has been no scarcity of food and the general economic condition of the people, though low, has not been bad.

The principal diseases affecting the population are hookworm disease and malaria.

The prevention of hookworm disease has ceased to be a matter in which the central government can usefully intervene. With the abolition of the system of preparing for agricultural use manure whose chief constituent was human excrement, the widespread infection with hookworm of the canefields ceased. Naturally, some years were required for the cleansing of the soil but it may now be safely presumed that hookworm disease is seldom contracted in the canefields. The problem has become one of personal hygiene, dependent upon a radical change in the personal habits of a very conservative and still ignorant people. The influence of education and propaganda on an agricultural population whose standard of living is definitely low is practically negligible. It is only when a man becomes fairly prosperous that he feels the need to modify his habits according to the new standards of living to which his increased prosperity has raised him. Thus, though the majority of the rural inhabitants have provided their premises with latrines the proper use of which would undoubtedly prevent hookworm infection, they have not yet habituated themselves to their use.

But though the prevention of the disease is now in the ineffectual hands of the rural population, the Government can still institute measures for its control. By the frequent and extensive treatment of the rural population with appropriate drugs the Government ensures that a large percentage of them are periodically released of the infestation to which their blind adherence to custom makes them liable. The hookworm-malaria branch of the Department undertakes mass treatment of the rural population and in this way ensures for those who are willing to take the treatment a certain degree of relief from the consequences of their hygienic shortcomings. Concurrently with the administration of treatment, the staff of the branch hammer home the principles of prevention, but this part of the campaign shows little sign of being effective so long as the general economic level of the population is low. During the year 84,683 treatments were given.

Malaria.—In 1932 the malaria situation in the Colony was reviewed in the light of past colonial experience and of the new information which had become available through the labours of the Malaria Committee of the League of Nations in Europe. As a result of this review it became evident that much energy was being dissipated by the institution of inappropriate measures and the maintenance of old drainage works whose usefulness had disappeared, either on account of their having been established in areas where such treatment was uneconomic or inappropriate or because subsequent events had nullified their effectiveness. It was accordingly decided to apply to the different regions of the Colony the measures which in the light of the new experience were likely to produce the most effective

return for the energy expended. In practice this has meant the virtual abandonment of anti-mosquito measures throughout the greater part of the rural areas lying below 600 feet altitude. Here the object of the Government is to make totaquina as widely available as possible so that sufferers may be able to obtain the treatment which they need. In a few populous places old drainage works of known effectiveness are maintained, but no new works are being undertaken in the meantime.

In most of the region lying higher than 600 feet anti-mosquito work is feasible, on account of the density of the population and of the effects of the cool season in restricting to practical numbers the permanent mosquito nurseries in the area. This area has now been the subject of close study for the past three years and it has been found that most of the mosquito nuisances are not such as require extensive permanent drainage works for their abatement. The problem on the central plateau is not the abolition or the treatment of large natural mosquito-breeding places but the abolition of innumerable small nuisances created and maintained by human agency. The area is strewn with gardens and small holdings on each of which there are maintained collections of water in the shape of watering tubs, barrels, tanks or pits. Of these the pits of the market gardens are the worst offenders as they have been repeatedly found to contain larvae of *A. Costalis*. Water receptacles of this kind are quite unnecessary in this area because practically every house or garden has a piped water supply. In fact most of the storage receptacles are filled from the pipe. The hookworm-malaria branch has been fully occupied in attempting to deal with this nuisance, but progress must necessarily be slow. Nevertheless control of such water collections is essential for control of malaria in this locality.

V.—HOUSING.

The housing of the wage-earning population of the Colony may be considered in three categories: (a) housing on estates, (b) housing in rural areas not estates, and (c) housing in towns.

Estate labourers are, for the most part, adequately housed. They are accommodated in lines, or rows of huts, constructed either of stone or of wattle and daub, with roofs more commonly of thatch, but frequently of corrugated iron. Adequate provision is made for the ventilation and lighting of these quarters, but ventilation and lighting appear generally to be disliked by the occupants. At night, every accessible crevice is carefully closed, though the presence of ridge ventilation in many cases assures reasonable change of air in spite of the efforts of the occupants to exclude fresh air from

their sleeping apartments. When the dwelling is thatched the problem of assuring adequate ventilation is difficult. The lines must be kept clear of weeds, and all houses are required to have a clear space of at least ten feet round them. Each camp has adequate latrine accommodation and a supply of wholesome water is laid on, though in many cases the labourers prefer to use the polluted water of streams or nearby irrigation channels for their domestic purposes. As a general rule, the lines are not lit at night. Lighting is scarcely necessary as the occupants retire shortly after sunset.

The housing in rural areas other than estates is fairly satisfactory. The Indian labourer can himself with the aid of his friends construct a satisfactory hut. He generally owns the piece of land on which he builds his hut and what is not occupied by the hut is planted with sugar cane or other agricultural produce, while room is also found for a primitive byre or a shelter for goats. The amenities of life are few, and a locality settled by a number of such persons bristles with sanitary problems arising out of poverty. Fortunately, most of them are now on a pipe-line so that their water supply gives little cause for anxiety, though they may have to carry their water several hundred yards from the nearest public fountain.

In the towns and townships conditions vary. There are areas of overcrowding with its consequent insanitary conditions. Too many persons live in one room though the climate is such as to obviate many of the evils attendant upon this practice.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Meteorological Conditions and Sugar Production.

Weather conditions during the year were fairly satisfactory, except in the Northern districts, where a drought was in evidence from March till August. Nothing in the incidence of weather factors justified an expectation of the highest sugar production so far recorded in this Colony.

The total cane reaped approximated 2,547 thousand metric tons, in excess by 45 thousand tons on last year's production. The sucrose content of the cane surpassed all expectations, averaging 13.71, as compared with 13.14 in 1935 and 12.86 in 1934. The average extraction, for the whole Colony, reached 11.79 per cent., as against a previous maximum of 11.25 in 1933. As a result of the association of these two favourable factors, the output of sugar reached the record total of 300.34 thousand metric tons.

The following table exhibits the comparative production for the past seven years:—

YIELD OF SUGAR IN THOUSAND METRIC TONS.

<i>Districts.</i>	1936.	1935.	1934.	1933.	1932.	1931.	1930.
Pamplemousses and							
Riviere du Rempart	63·97	69·97	30·13	57·77	62·73	41·81	43·00
Flacq	49·98	44·15	30·87	41·37	35·97	27·91	37·81
Moka	43·42	35·76	29·30	40·08	34·12	20·83	32·10
Plaines Wilhems ...	21·89	20·62	11·54	18·22	17·05	11·64	14·62
Black River ...	12·85	11·28	5·99	8·88	9·06	6·29	9·81
Grand Port ...	56·10	53·38	38·37	50·66	46·66	28·52	46·53
Savanne	52·13	45·34	32·66	44·48	41·63	27·01	37·09
Total ...	300·34	280·50	178·86	261·46	247·22	164·01	220·96

The figure for 1931 evinces a reduction, estimated at 34 per cent., due to a severe cyclone. In 1934, there was a severe drought.

The large output for 1936 is probably the result of a number of different factors operating in the same direction: the high sucrose content, responsible for 12,000 to 15,000 tons of sugar extra, is probably due in part to the cool and sunny weather which obtained during the ripening season and, in part, to a higher percentage of sweet canes reaped (BH 10(12)).

The heavy yields obtained in the Central and Southern districts appear to result from (a) increase in the area cultivated, (b) improved cane varieties, (c) superior cultivation and fertilization, (d) enhanced irrigation, (e) total absence of cyclones, the whole associated with an excellent start of the crop made in November and December, 1935.

Grades of Sugar.—The proportion of raws was, this year, 77·85 per cent. as against 87·10 per cent. last year; vesous were 21·68 per cent. as against 12·60 per cent. in 1935, while low sugars approximated 0·47 per cent. as compared with 0·30 last year.

Area under Sugar Cane.—At the beginning of 1936 the area under cane was estimated at 139,341 acres, in excess by 1,032 on the corresponding figure for the year previous. Estates with factory cultivated 59,914 acres, estates without factory, 37,697, giving a total estate cultivation of 97,611. The balance of 41,730 acres was cultivated by small planters mostly Indian peasant proprietors.

Number of Factories.—In 1936, two more factories were closed down, the number in operation being reduced to 40. Two more factories will be dismantled in 1937 so that, for the 1937 crop there will be only 38 factories. They numbered 54 in 1921.

Varieties of Sugar Cane.—During the year an enquiry was conducted regarding the relative amount of cultivation of BH 10(12) on estates.

The results are as follows:—

<i>Districts.</i>	<i>Per cent of Total in BH 10 (12).</i>
Pamplemousses and Riviere du Rempart	32
Flacq	31
Moka	8
Plaines Wilhems	22
Black River	37
Grand Port	21
Savanne	29
Whole Island	26

It would thus appear that over one-fourth of the total estate cultivation or, approximately, 26,000 acres are, at present, under BH 10(12). As the richness of BH 10(12) markedly exceeds that of Tannas while, with favourable weather, the yield in the field of the first variety is generally in excess of that of the second, it would seem that, within the next few years, the Colony's output in sugar may be appreciably increased owing to the extension given to BH 10(12).

Sugar Market.—The market for sugar remained debased throughout the greater part of the year. By 31st December, the whole production had been disposed of at an average price approximating to Rs.5.50 net per 50 kilos on a basis of 99° of polarization and including the benefit of extra Colonial preference.

Disposal of the 1935-6 Crop and Local Sugar Consumption.—The total sugar exported from 1st August, 1935, to 31st July, 1936, was 273,898.6 metric tons distributed as follows:—

	<i>Metric tons.</i>
Great Britain	241,776.6
Canada	31,531.3
Hong Kong	355.6
Other places	235.1
Total	273,898.6

The exportation for the 1936-7 crop, up to December, 1936, was as follows:—

	<i>Metric tons.</i>
Great Britain	116,907.0
Canada	16,529.8
Other places	114.9
Total	133,551.7

The local consumption of sugar for 1935-6 was 9,327 metric tons, as compared with 11,211 for the year previous and 10,381 for 1933-4.

Sugar Machinery.—Machinery to the value of Rs.589,449 was imported during the year as against Rs.438,588 in 1935. Tramway material to the value of Rs.328,219 was imported as compared with Rs.194,666 the year previous.

Fertilizers.—The importation of chemical fertilizers in 1936 totalled 21,588 metric tons at Rs.2,078,332 as compared with 15,590 metric tons in 1935 valued at Rs.1,754,425.

Pests and Diseases of the Sugar Cane.—Conditions during the year were practically the same as during the year previous. Experiments have been started regarding the effect of hand collection of adults *Phytalus smithi* versus non collection. New parasites of the beetle have been introduced from Madagascar and Java and Porto Rico.

Minor Agricultural Industries.

Tobacco.—The area cultivated in 1936 was increased to 661 acres. Disease was little in evidence but weather conditions were not, upon the whole, entirely satisfactory.

The amount of leaf purchased by the warehouse during the year was 375,923 kilos of a value of Rs.475,326, as compared with 275,710 kilos and Rs.268,321 in 1935.

Fibre.—Conditions in 1936 were somewhat better. The total export was 1,213.8 metric tons as against 446 in 1935. Consideration is being given to the best means of furthering the interests of the fibre industry and, in particular, to the possibility of reopening the bag factory.

Pineapple.—Prospects are somewhat better as regards this industry. The Colonial Development Fund has sanctioned an advance of £2,000 to growers and a committee has been appointed for the control of the fund. The same fund has donated £1,000 for experiments in pineapple cultivation by the Department of Agriculture.

During the year 1935-36 the canning factory turned out 2,960 cases of canned fruit of a net total weight of 66,600 kilos.

Tea.—Progress is being maintained in this industry. The total production of the two principal tea gardens reached 31,250 kilos in 1936.

Coconut Industry.—The export of copra-produce of the dependencies of Mauritius amounted during the year to 1,331.5 tons valued at Rs.229,884 as against 1,746 tons, valued at Rs.217,985 in 1935. The export of coconut oil during the year was 7,113 litres valued at Rs.2,686.

Alcohol.—The total quantity of alcohol distilled for human consumption amounted to 651,727 litres as against 539,361 the year previous. The quantity distilled for industrial purposes was 453,820 litres as against 360,670 in 1935. The exportation of rum during the year was 39,619 litres, valued at Rs.8,776 as against 18,155 litres valued at Rs.5,299 in 1935.

Veterinary and Livestock.—Interest in cattle breeding and management was principally focused on the possibility of producing cattle for meat. The question of improving the quality of local pastures was investigated and Professor Lindsay Robb of Pretoria University, South Africa, has furnished a full report on this question.

At the beginning of the year, horned cattle on estates totalled 14,195 and the number of sheep was 1,961. Cattle importation from Madagascar amounted to 5,767 valued at Rs.362,000.

The question of cattle raising in certain dependencies of Mauritius received attention during the year and prospects are considered generally satisfactory. As regards sheep breeding, the introduction of black head Persian rams has met with great appreciation on the part of Mauritius breeders.

The pig industry has also received attention and some good quality boars have been introduced.

Other Manufacturing Industries.

There was no decline in the subsidiary industries during the year. The number of engineering establishments remained at 47, while bakeries rose to 75. The number of lime kilns licensed in 1936 was 32 and of cabinet makers 161. There were four docks (landing etc.), four distilleries, three hydro-electrical plants, eight cigarette factories, one match factory, four salt making establishments affording employment in all to about 2,000 people.

In addition, leather tanning, boot and shoe making, aerated water works, ice making, vinegar making, biscuit and jams etc., provided means of work to a large number of people and went some way towards rendering the Colony more self supporting.

Fisheries.

In 1926 the question of Fishery Control in Mauritius was thoroughly investigated by Mr. J. Hornell, F.L.S., F.R.A.I., formerly Director of Fisheries in Madras, and his recommendations in the printed report on the subject have formed the basis of the work of the local Fisheries Advisory Committee formed in 1927. Special consideration has been given to the questions of control of net fishing, improvement of local methods of fish-curing, protection of the local dried fish trade

against the imported article, and ensuring a plentiful supply of cheap fish in the markets without prejudice to the working fishermen. Careful study of the whole question led the Committee to recommend a suspension of the use of large nets in 1934 and this was approved and has been in force since 1st October of that year. The results have shown clearly that the experiment has been justified and steps are being taken to make the prohibition permanent.

The lagoons, between the coral reef surrounding the Island and the beach, are normally full of excellent fish of many varieties which are taken in large quantities by means of basket traps, cast net and line and in the open sea outside the reefs large fish can be taken at practically all times of the year by trolling or with deep sea lines.

All professional fishing is done from small sailing craft known as “ peniches ” and “ pirogues ” which are well built and sea-worthy but the business side of the industry is quite undeveloped owing to local preference for old-fashioned methods which ought to be replaced. Amateur fishermen are well supplied with locally built sea going motor boats which enable them to reach the remarkable fishing grounds round the rocky islets lying from two to fifteen miles off the northern coast of the Colony where good sport is certain at almost all seasons.

Fish-curing industries are established at Rodrigues and St. Brandon Islands and produce a considerable quantity of what is one of the staple foods of the poorer classes but the dried fish of South Africa and India still commands a large sale and is imported in increasing quantities at a very low price.

River fishing is confined to spinning for carp and chite—a fish very like a mullet—but fishing rights are strictly preserved and suitable stretches of water are scarce.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The value of the external trade of the Colony in Merchandise for the year 1936 was Rs.67,867,395, of which Rs.30,218,589 represented Imports and Rs.37,648,806 Exports. The balance in favour of Exports was therefore Rs.7,430,217. In comparison to that of recent years, the trade balance may be regarded as satisfactory. Economic conditions, on the whole, showed improvement over the preceding year.

The total values of Imports and Exports for the last five years were:—

				<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
				<i>Rupees (c.i.f.).</i>	<i>Rupees (f.o.b.).</i>
1936	...	...	...	30,218,589	37,648,806*
1935	...	...	...	29,891,160	28,649,255
1934	...	...	...	29,680,346	26,136,140
1933	...	...	...	29,035,237	32,176,743
1932	...	...	...	26,992,760	27,662,851

* Including the estimated value of sugar quota certificates, not included in previous year's figures.

The declared value of Exports in 1936 includes the value of sugar quota certificates which may be estimated at Rs.4,858,000 for the year.

Imports of Merchandise.

Mauritius produces barely one-tenth of the foodstuffs required for its inhabitants and imports practically all articles of food and drink, sugar excepted, and manufactured goods of all descriptions.

Rice, which is the staple food of the people, represented about 20 per cent. of the total imports in 1936, against 22 per cent. in 1935. The fall in the importation of rice is due, mainly, to the fact that an unusually large quantity was received in the closing months of 1935.

There was a decline in the importation of other essential foodstuffs chiefly wheat, flour, dholl, lentils, edible oils, with a corresponding rise in the importation of manufactured goods.

The proportion of food, drink and tobacco to manufactured articles imported is shown below:—

		<i>Food, drink, and tobacco. Rs.</i>	<i>Manufactured articles. Rs.</i>	<i>Total imports including other articles. Rs.</i>
1936	... ..	11,616,296	16,250,800	30,218,589
1935	... ..	12,900,047	14,745,275	29,891,160

Increases are noted mainly in earthenware and glassware, machinery and millwork, metals and manufactures thereof, petroleum lamp oil, petroleum motor spirits and chemicals for the preparation of manures.

The quota allotted in respect of Japanese cotton and artificial silk piece goods was the same as for the previous year. However, the trade in these goods with the United Kingdom and India showed a decrease of 20 per cent. and 12 per cent. respectively in comparison with last year's importations.

Japan continues to maintain her position with respect to woollen piece goods upon which no restriction has as yet been imposed.

In 1935, an enactment, which came into force on the 1st January, 1936, was passed by the Legislative Council with a view to ensuring an additional measure of control over the importation of quota cotton and artificial silk textiles (piece goods) from the United Kingdom.

A certificate of origin certifying that the goods have been spun, woven and finished in the United Kingdom, endorsed by certain Chambers of Commerce, must henceforth be produced in respect of importations of such goods from the United Kingdom.

Previous to 1932 the greater proportion of manufactured tobacco and cigarettes consumed locally was imported, but, as a result of the increase of customs duties combined with technical

advice and control by the Agricultural Department, importations have decreased and a greater proportion of the tobacco consumed is now produced in the Island.

The trade returns indicate a similar trend for wines, matches, salt and maize.

The trade in edible oils which was formerly chiefly with India and China now shows an increase in favour of the United Kingdom, owing to the superior quality of the soya oil there manufactured.

In addition to the above, the Colony is also a large importer of chemical fertilizers for the cane fields, coal and motor spirits for rail and motor transport; machinery for sugar estates; vehicles of all descriptions; bullocks for food and gunny bags for packing sugar.

Other considerable items of importation are wearing apparel, drugs, timber, provisions, etc.

The following table shows some of the principal articles imported during the last two years:—

				<i>Quantity.</i>		<i>Value in Rupees (c.i.f.).</i>	
				<i>1936.</i>	<i>1935.</i>	<i>1936.</i>	<i>1935.</i>
Rice...	...	...	kilos	54,482,152	60,589,845	6,035,237	6,585,730
Flour	...	...	„	8,103,027	9,625,013	1,017,554	1,000,061
Coals	...	...	„	40,261,876	36,861,763	463,615	439,048
Timber	...	...		—	—	464,801	260,489
Apparel	...	...		—	—	621,274	524,350
Gunny bags	...	number		4,004,610	3,251,800	1,129,275	974,600
Cotton, grey	...	metres...		1,539,084	4,702,085	265,361	862,859
„ white	...	„		1,017,102		202,024	
„ coloured	...	„		6,289,553		1,335,413	
Silk (including artificial silk).				—	—	487,880	541,430
Machinery and mill-work.				—	—	693,339	575,964
Motor-cars ...	...	number		205	291	446,828	641,167
Petrol							
Lamp oil...	...	hectolitres		27,823	23,950	323,137	296,012
“ Motor spirits ”				66,163	54,170	872,612	696,481
Saltpetre	...	kilos	...	3,760,273	4,846,508	582,222	694,957
Sulphate of ammonia	„	...	...	13,689,573	9,819,471	1,238,995	885,677
Soap, common	...	„	...	1,558,929	1,171,323	530,669	456,343
Metals (iron and steel.				—	—	1,081,718	826,175
Metals (non-ferrous)				—	—	242,327	220,220

Exports of Merchandise.

Mauritius is almost entirely dependent on one industry—the sugar industry—and so long as efforts made to develop other industries do not meet with success the economic position will continue to be more or less insecure, especially on account of cyclones. The sugar exports in 1936 represented about 98 per

cent. of the domestic exports. For the last two years they were:—

				<i>Metric tons.</i>	<i>Value in Rupees. f.o.b.</i>
1936	...	...	...	279,194	31,149,370*
1935	...	...	...	232,202	26,895,460

* Values of sugar quota certificates not included.

All sugar exported is consigned to the United Kingdom or Canada. Exports in 1936 were:—

				<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value in Rupees. f.o.b.</i>
United Kingdom	...	...	...	262,351	29,462,107†
Canada	...	...	...	16,530	1,673,610
Hong Kong	...	...	...	305	12,624
Straits Settlements	...	...	...	8	1,029

† Values of sugar quota certificates not included.

Other exports are comparatively insignificant in value. They are chiefly:—aloe fibre (1,291 tons valued Rs.236,822); rum (39,159 litres valued Rs.8,776) copra and poonac (1,332 tons valued Rs.229,884); coconut oil (7,113 litres valued Rs.2,686).

Domestic Exports in the year amounted to Rs.31,842,308; Re-exports Rs.948,498.

The Re-exports are chiefly lentils, gunny bags, salted fish, old metals, cinema films consigned to the neighbouring Islands of Bourbon and Madagascar and also to the Union of South Africa, Japan and India.

Apart from the trade in merchandise, bullion and specie were imported and exported to the total value of Rs.50,000 and Rs.159,185 respectively in 1936 against Rs.36,866 and Rs.1,275,622 in 1935.

Distribution of Imports.

The import trade is mainly from the United Kingdom (31.65 per cent.) and India (33.04 per cent.), in 1936. The United Kingdom is the source of most of the manufactured articles and India of grain, spices and gunny bags.

Other sources of supply are Australia (4.28 per cent.); Japan (3.92 per cent.); France (3.62 per cent.) and the United States of America (3.17 per cent.).

Australia is the principal source of supply for wheat, flour and butter. Importations from Japan and United States of America increased slightly during the year.

The United States of America and the Dutch East Indies are the principal sources of petroleum products.

Course of Prices of Imports.

In 1936 there was a rise in the price of flour in comparison with the year previous. The price of rice and the other essential foodstuffs, however, remained unchanged.

Development of Empire Trade.

Since 1924 the Colony has accorded preference to the United Kingdom goods. This preferential tariff was extended from year to year and assumed, in 1933, an Empire character. As from 1934, quotas were imposed on artificial silk and cotton piece-goods and as a result both the United Kingdom and India have benefited.

The value of the import trade from the British Empire, in 1936, was Rs.22,802,528 against Rs.23,460,095 in 1935, while in respect of foreign countries it increased from Rs.358,009 in 1935 to Rs.7,375,447 in 1936. This is due to larger foreign importations of electric goods and apparatus, wearing apparel, glassware, metals, motor spirts, machinery.

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

No change of importance occurred during the year. Labourers under monthly contract received, in cash Rs.10 per month, with rations, lodgings, medical attendance, etc., in all equivalent to about Rs.20 per month.

Male day labourers received R.0.50 to R.0.60 per daily task, during the intercrop season but, during harvest time, wages are about double these figures. Females, of whom a considerable number are employed, receive generally half the wages of males.

Remuneration for piece work was, on the average, as follows:—

						<i>Per acre.</i>
						<i>Rs.</i>
Clearing land	...	...	...	...	...	30-40
Digging cane holes	...	...	...	...	...	18-20
Manuring	...	...	...	...	...	15
Weeding	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cutting canes (20 tons/acre)	...	...	...	...	...	10-15

The wages of artisans were Rs.1 to 2 per day according to nature of work, while those paid monthly received Rs.35 to Rs.75 according to circumstances.

Domestic servants, especially in the Central and most populous districts, are easy to procure but well-trained servants are not so numerous on the market. Butlers, cooks, gardeners and other servants receive between Rs.10 and Rs.35 per month. Chauffeurs, on the average get Rs.35 per month.

No change in the rates of salaries occurred in 1935. The following table indicates the ruling rates:—

	<i>Rs. per annum.</i>
Managers of sugar estates and senior Government officials	8,000–13,000
Government, bank and commercial clerks (higher grade)	4,000– 7,000
Clerks and employees on sugar estates...	1,500– 3,000
Junior clerks and employees	720– 1,500

The cost of living in 1936 upon the whole decreased appreciably. Rice, the staple food of the population, was indexed at 74 during the first quarter and at 66 during the last (100 in 1914, as base). Other grains rose from 79 to 88. Flour remained about 60 during the first three quarters but rose to 120 during the last. Oils and fats were steady about 77 while tea and coffee decreased from 90 to 75. Articles of clothing decreased from 151 in the first quarter to 109 in the last.

The quarterly weighted index for the total cost of living (28 items) in 1936 was as follows (100 being the Index for 1914):—

First quarter	116·7
Second „	121·7
Third „	111·6
Fourth „	95·9

The mean for the year was 111·5 as compared with 115·9 in 1935. As regards the labouring classes, the following table indicates the purchasing power of wages, in terms of rice, since 1927:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Average daily wages of male labourer.</i>	<i>Average price of fair quality rice per lb.</i>	<i>Purchasing power of wages expressed in lb. of rice.</i>
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>lb.</i>
1927	1·25	0·13	9½
1928	1·25	0·10	12½
1929	1·00	0·10	10
1930	0·80	0·09	9
1931	0·75	0·08	9
1932	0·45	0·05½	8
1933	0·45	0·06	7½
1934	0·45	0·06	7½
1935	0·55	0·07	8
1936	0·55	0·06	9

The official index numbers do not take into consideration the improved standard of living since 1914, while such items as housing, lighting, tuition of children, taxes, etc., which have either not been reduced or else, actually increased. Consequently, the cost of living for Europeans and people living on the European standard is, generally, higher than the official index would lead one to suppose.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

An Ordinance, enacted by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Council of Government, was introduced on the 18th of September, 1934, to amend and consolidate the Law on Education. It provides for the establishment of a Royal College Department and a Schools Department. The Regulations for the management of Government and Aided Primary Schools as well as Aided Secondary Schools are embodied in the Education Code.

Primary.—Primary Education is not compulsory, but it is given free through Government and State-aided schools which are open to all children of the Colony. The following table shows the number of primary schools, the number of pupils on roll, and the staff of teachers during the year 1936:—

<i>Schools.</i>		<i>No. of Institutions.</i>	<i>No. of Teachers.</i>	<i>No. of Pupils on roll.</i>	<i>No. of Pupils in average attendance.</i>
Government	...	50	393	15,192	10,987
Aided	...	77	659	24,774	17,837
<i>Total</i>	...	127	1,052	39,966	28,824

State-aided schools are under the control of a Manager, and the Government contribution includes the salaries of the teachers together with recurrent grants to meet part of the expenditure on maintenance of school buildings and furniture.

Pupils must be at least five years old and must have been successfully vaccinated in order to be allowed admission to a primary school; when they are under five they undergo preliminary training before being promoted to the lowest form.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French, and arithmetic. In the higher classes elementary history and geography are taught and girls study needlework. Regular instruction is also given in physical drill, nature study, hygiene and elementary principles in agriculture.

There are six primary school standards or classes, viz.:—

- Standard I with pupils from 5 to 6 years of age.
- Standard II with pupils from 6 to 7 years of age.
- Standard III with pupils from 7 to 8 years of age.
- Standard IV with pupils from 8 to 10 years of age.
- Standard V with pupils from 9 to 11 years of age.
- Standard VI with pupils from 10 to 12 years of age.

There are no fixed age limits for the different standards but no pupil may be entered on the attendance register who is under five years of age, and no pupil may be retained on the register after the annual examination which follows his or her fourteenth birthday, exception being made for pupils following the scholarship classes.

Examinations which were formerly held for all the classes are now limited to Standards V and VI. Experience has shown that the quality of the work put in, now that examinations have been restricted to the higher classes, is of a higher standard than it used to be. Much however is left to be done on this line and a definite scheme is being introduced for the benefit of the lower classes. The advantage gained by the primary schools through the methods of teaching introduced is positively proved by examination results.

Fourteen apprenticeships are awarded annually to primary school pupils to encourage the study of needlework and handicraft. Needlework apprenticeships which were formerly restricted to Government or aided primary school pupils, are now open to outsiders. The object in view was to encourage competition on this line but, unfortunately the result is far from being satisfactory. There is a noticeable abstention from the handicraft examinations, and the reason for this may be ascribable to the undoubted aversion professed for manual work of any kind. Twenty-six scholarships and exhibitions tenable at the secondary schools are awarded every year, through competitive examinations, to the best pupils attending primary schools.

It is interesting to note that a high percentage of candidates winning the English scholarships are junior scholars from the primary schools.

There are 30 gardens attached to the primary schools and they are cultivated by the pupils of Standards III to VI. These gardens are regularly inspected by officers of the Agricultural Department who give advice as to proper cultivation.

Secondary.—There are two categories of secondary schools, viz: (1) Secondary aided schools, which are managed privately but are under Government control, and (2) the Royal College and the Royal College School which are managed by the Government.

(1) *Secondary aided schools.*—Government grants to secondary aided schools are assessed with reference to attendance and efficiency, as tested by inspection and examination, and not, as in the case of primary aided schools with reference to maintenance and salary charges.

The following table shows the number of institutions, the number of pupils on roll and in average attendance, and the staff of teachers during the year 1936:—

<i>Schools.</i>	<i>No. of Institutions.</i>	<i>No. of Teachers.</i>	<i>No. of Pupils on roll.</i>	<i>No. of Pupils in average attendance.</i>
Aided	9	134	1,599	1,406

These schools provide not only for elementary education such as is given in primary schools, but also for higher education leading up to the Cambridge School Certificate and the London Matriculation.

The curriculum of studies includes the teaching of English, French, mathematics, needlework (for girls), hygiene, history, and geography. In addition to these, drawing and music are taught on a more moderate scale.

These schools are visited periodically by the Superintendent of Schools, who examines the lower forms. No advantage is gained from these examinations but it helps classification in view of prizes awarded for general proficiency. The middle and higher forms are examined partly by local examiners and partly through examinations conducted by the Syndicate of the University of Cambridge.

Working hours in both primary and secondary schools, extend as a general rule, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. no provision being made for evening classes.

(2) *Royal College*.—The Royal College is a Government school for the secondary and higher education of boys up to a standard equivalent to that of the Higher Certificate examinations conducted by Oxford and Cambridge Universities. It comprises two schools under the management of the Rector, the Royal College proper in Curepipe and the Royal College School in Port Louis, where pupils who live in or near the capital are educated on the same lines as in Curepipe up to School Certificate Standard. At the Royal College the teaching staff consists of the Rector, twelve Masters with degrees in Honours at British Universities, eleven Assistant Masters appointed locally, and a Physical Training and Gymnastic Instructor (who also attends once weekly at the school to take classes); and at the Royal College School, of the Head-master, two Masters and nine Assistant Masters. Assistant Masters are encouraged to take the B.A. and B.Sc. examinations of London University. The College has well-equipped libraries and chemical, physical, and biological laboratories; almost as many pupils follow classical as scientific studies. The subjects taught are English, French, mathematics, Latin, Greek, chemistry, physics, biology, geography and history; and classes are held during school hours in physical training and gymnastics. The pupils are drawn from all classes and races in the Colony, and range in age from 10 to 20 years. The fees are from Rs.96 to Rs.192 per annum, and pupils may travel at quarter rate on the Government railways. Admission to the Royal College is conditional upon passing an entrance examination or winning one of the 20 annual Primary Schools Scholarships and Exhibitions or one of the two Secondary

Schools Scholarships awarded annually, or one of the eight class scholarships and exhibitions, which are competed for annually, and are open to all boys in the Colony. Six further class scholarships and exhibitions are competed for annually by Royal College pupils. These 36 scholarships and exhibitions are tenable at the Royal College, and entitle the holders to free tuition, free railway travelling to and from College, and also to the purchase at half price of books and school requisities, for a period of three years except the primary schools awards, which carry these privileges for the whole period of the pupil's college education.

Two scholarships one on the Classical and one on the Modern Side, of the present value of £1,200 each (with first-class passage to and from England) tenable for four or five years at a British University or any other approved place of education in the United Kingdom are also awarded annually. Besides the winners of these two scholarships, a few boys whose parents can afford it go to England or France to study for a profession, usually Medicine or Law, and almost always return to Mauritius to practise. Of the remaining pupils the majority on leaving the College find employment in the island.

The boys receive a training in classical and scientific subjects. Specialization begins at the Entrance class, and the division into modern and classical sides becomes complete in the Upper Middle class. At the School, pupils may undergo commercial training in place of classics or science.

Classes are held between 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. on five days weekly. In addition to the ordinary classes there are Saturday extension classes where candidates for Pharmaceutical Diplomas and other public science examinations are helped in their studies. The number of pupils on the roll of the Royal College in January, 1935, was 325, and of the School, 156. The average attendance at the College was 273 and at the School, 124. (The number of College pupils on the roll in May, 1935, after the publication of the School Certificate results, was 307.) One hundred and one pupils sat in December, 1934, for the Cambridge School Certificate, of whom 48 obtained certificates. In May, 1935, the number of pupils who had passed this examination and proceeded to the highest class of the College was 43.

Besides the regular Physical Training Classes encouragement is given to rugby and association football, hockey, boxing and gymnastics and athletics, in which, although by no means all the boys join, the standard of proficiency is high. As the pupils are all day-boys it is difficult to obtain much support for other social activities, but a school magazine is published thrice yearly.

Welfare Institutions.

There are six Roman Catholic infirmaries for men and women, and two orphanages for children under the management of Sisters of Mercy; also an orphanage for boys and one for girls under the control and management of the Church of England, and one "home" for men and women under the management of the Church of Scotland. These institutions receive from the Government a maintenance fee for each pauper maintained therein.

Under Ordinance No. 44 of 1932, subsequently amended by Ordinance No. 21 of 1934, a home, styled the Austin Wilson Home, has been instituted and incorporated to provide accommodation and subsistence for aged gentlefolk. The funds for the establishment of this home have been generously contributed by Mr. A. J. Wilson in memory of his son, the late Austin Wilson.

A Mohammedan orphanage was also established in Port Louis in 1932 for the maintenance and education of orphans of the Mohammedan creed. Funds for running the institution are obtained from voluntary subscriptions among the Mohammedans.

Outdoor assistance to paupers was granted in cash by the Poor Law Department during the year.

Several private religious societies for the distribution of assistance in food and medical care are also in existence. The Société Française d'Assistance chiefly assists French nationals.

The Child Welfare Committee and the Oeuvre Pasteur de la Goutte de Lait, two philanthropic Institutions in receipt of Government grants, deal especially with expectant and nursing mothers and their babies.

The Workmen Compensation Ordinance provides for the grant of compensation by employers to workmen who are injured in the course of their work.

Recreation, Music, Art and Drama.

Association football is the most popular form of sport. Golf, tennis, cricket, hockey and rugby football are played mostly by the wealthier classes. The Mauritius Turf Club and the Mauritius Jockey Club hold race meetings from May to September at the Champ de Mars in Port Louis and at Floreal in the district of Plaines Wilhems; and regattas are held by the Yacht clubs of Mahebourg and Tombeau Bay. "La Chasse" or the shooting of driven deer is a favourite sport of Mauritius. The season is from June to the beginning of September.

There are several flourishing companies of Girl Guides and Brownies; the latter are known locally as Blue Birds. The Boy

Scouts have not been so successful as the Girl Guides, but efforts are being made to encourage the movement.

There is not much encouragement for any of the arts. Music is fostered principally by the parish churches whose amateur singers frequently give concerts. The Christian Brothers also provide musical training, and apart from the Police Band, which consists of a bandmaster and 30 bandsmen, a band styled the "Alliance Musicale" and comprising about 25 units was established in 1933.

The Municipality of Port Louis has instituted a drawing class, practically the only encouragement to local talent. The Institute has a collection of pictures presented by Mr. Rochecouste but there is no other art gallery.

Occasional dramatic performances are given by amateurs, but no permanent society has been formed. In better times the Municipality of Port Louis subsidizes a theatrical company from France, which plays in the theatre at Port Louis. The Chinese have their own theatre in the town, to which companies come from China when conditions are prosperous.

There exists a Royal Society of Arts and Sciences which was founded in 1829 under the title of Société d'Histoire Naturelle and was granted a Royal Charter in 1846. It interests itself in most branches of science and arts, especially those relating to questions of agriculture and the natural history of the Colony. The Society was incorporated with the Mauritius Institute in 1906 and its library has been transferred to the Institute.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Roads and Road Transport.

The Colony is well served with 500 miles of main roads maintained by Government and 188 miles of branch roads maintained by the District Boards. All roads are metalled and 165 miles of the main roads have been covered with bitumen.

The excellent roads of Mauritius are a source of constant surprise and admiration to all visitors to the Colony who are in a position to draw comparisons between Mauritius and other outlying posts of the Empire. All the principal roads are tarred and a systematic policy of widening, grading and reducing curves has been pursued for some years with the result that the numerous places of beauty and interest in the Colony can be reached quickly and in comfort by tourists and visitors.

At the end of the year there were 2,831 motor vehicles in use classified as follows:—

Private cars	...	...	...	1,743
Taxi cabs	...	...	...	364
Lorries	...	...	...	368
Motor cycles	...	...	...	218
Omnibuses	...	...	...	138

Importations of motor vehicles during the year totalled 332 of which 272 were British made.

Taxi Cabs for hire in Port Louis and the principal towns are of modern type and are kept in excellent condition as regards safety and cleanliness and the charges for hire are reasonable—viz. R.0.20 per mile for short distance and special rates for long journeys or by the day. There is an excellent bus service on the 15 miles of main road from Port Louis to Curepipe and many subsidiary lines of less importance which radiate from the main system to every town and village in the Colony. The fares vary from 2 to 5 cents per mile and buses on the principal routes are well patronized and maintained in excellent condition for the safety and comfort of passengers. The retail price of petrol is normally Rs.11.00 per eight-gallon case, which is equivalent to about 2s. 1d. per gallon.

The annual tax payable in respect of motor vehicles is Rs.4 per horse-power in respect of motor cycles and Rs.5 per horse-power in respect of other classes of vehicles. Lorries pay an additional tax of Rs.40 per ton gross weight and motor buses a licence duty varying from Rs.200 to Rs.500 per annum in accordance with their seating capacity. Motor lorries plying for hire pay a further licence of Rs.200 per annum. Motor Cabs pay a licence duty of Rs.30 per annum and the cost of a driving licence is Rs.5 a year.

Cars of visitors are subject to a tax at the rate of Rs.5 a month.

Railways.

The Mauritius Government Railways comprise 110 miles of main line with $45\frac{1}{2}$ miles of siding and station lay-outs of British standard 4 feet $8\frac{1}{2}$ inch gauge, and $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 75 cm. gauge track known as the Bois Cheri Light Railway. The exceptionally heavy gradient, much of it being 1 in 26, makes the operation of the Railways exceptional, restricting speed of the passenger service and limiting the weight of goods trains.

From the terminal at Port Louis, the most important section, the Midland line rises to 1,800 feet on its way to Mahebourg, the old port on the south-east coast of the island, $35\frac{1}{4}$ miles distant. A branch, 11 miles long, from this line, Rose Belle serves the fishing hamlet of Souillac. The North line, $33\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, is fairly level and runs from Port Louis passing through the coastal districts to the little village of Grand River South-East, on the east coast. The Moka branch from Rose Hill, on the Middle line, 950 feet above sea-level, to Montagne Blanche, is $14\frac{3}{4}$ miles long and rises on this length to 1,500 feet. Tamarin and the Black River district are served by a branch off the Midland line at Richelieu, $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, for goods traffic only. The Montagne Longue branch from Terre Rouge on the North line, is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, and in common with the Black River line has no heavy gradients.

Particulars of revenue and expenditure for five financial years are given below:—

		<i>Revenue.</i>					<i>Increase or Decrease of</i>
		<i>1931-32.</i>	<i>1932-33.</i>	<i>1933-34.</i>	<i>1934-35.</i>	<i>1935-36.</i>	<i>1935-36 over 1934-35.</i>
		<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Passengers...	...	434,325	419,181	524,818	510,728	466,307	— 44,421
Parcels ...	...	63,466	62,163	65,776	61,019	63,515	+ 2,496
General Goods	...	817,077	1,174,046	1,255,729	928,850	1,288,520	+ 359,670
Miscellaneous	...	70,875	57,412	53,809	52,102	52,886	+ 784
Net Revenue	...	187,938	63,554	36,738	43,809	47,204	+ 3,395
Total ...		1,573,681	1,776,356	1,936,870	1,596,508	1,918,432	+ 321,924
Goods Tonnage	...	254,139	362,642	385,541	279,646	422,811	
		<i>Expenditure.</i>					<i>Increase or Decrease of</i>
		<i>1931-32.</i>	<i>1932-33.</i>	<i>1933-34.</i>	<i>1934-35.</i>	<i>1935-36.</i>	<i>1935-36 over 1934-35.</i>
		<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Working expendi- ture including renewals.		1,945,113	1,516,631	1,606,730	1,808,354	1,877,048	+ 68,694
Net revenue expen- diture.		642,785	260,955	190,308	223,162	189,103	— 34,059
Total ...		2,587,898	1,777,586	1,797,038	2,031,516	2,066,151	+ 34,635
Capital Expendi- ture.		20,226	304	—	26	11,604	+ 11,578
		2,608,124	1,777,890	1,797,038	2,031,542	2,077,755	+ 46,213

As a contrast with last year, the 1935-6 sugar crop was a record one, viz., 281,000 tons, and the financial results are reflected in the above statement.

In spite of the increased revenue from sugar, some of the more favourably placed estates have adopted Diesel motor lorries to transport their sugars to Port Louis, the effect of which would be to raise the rail transport costs to those factories less favourably situated for road access. Measures have therefore been placed before the Legislature to preserve all sugar traffic for the railway, the latter being at present in a general sense essential for the due transport of the crop. Passenger traffic continues to diminish and, although the early promise of reduced fares has not been fulfilled, there is as yet no urgency to curtail the passenger service. There can be no doubt however that road travel is increasing, due to the flexibility of the bus services and the size and comfort of the buses, which are not regulated by time tables and not tied down to fixed fares. In consequence the existing Rs.450,000 to Rs.500,000 of passenger revenue is in jeopardy.

Tramways.

Better economic conditions for the sugar industry resulted in a perceptible extension of tramways on estates, notwithstanding the greater extension of motor traffic. In 1936, the total extent of rail on estates approximated to 1,770 kilometres as against 1,680 in 1935. There were 220 locomotives and about 7,400 trucks. Farm tractors numbered 72 and motor lorries 99.

Posts, Telegraphs and Wireless.

The inland postal service is fairly well developed, the usual facilities in regard to correspondence, parcels and remittances being available. The island is served by 52 offices and postal agencies of which 47 are also telegraph offices. With the exception of a few outposts in outlying localities, the offices are on the railway lines. The outlying offices and localities far from the railway stations are served by postmen or by mail contractors.

Mails to and from Europe are received and despatched regularly twice every month by the French Messageries Maritimes Steamers via Suez, and twice in transit through South Africa by the Dutch K.P.M. Steamers. Other vessels are occasionally available. The time taken in transit for letters from Great Britain is about 32 days by the Messageries Maritimes Steamers and between 26 and 52 days via South Africa.

English parcel mails are not received by the Cape route unless a direct boat is available; the normal route is via Marseilles. Parcels from continental Europe are also received by this route.

Mails to and from India, Ceylon, the Far East and Australia are usually received and forwarded by the Messageries Maritimes Steamers via Mombasa or Aden, and by the K.P.M. Steamers via Singapore or Batavia.

There is a regular monthly service by the Dutch K.P.M. Steamers with Rodrigues, the largest dependency of Mauritius, and a regular four-monthly steamer service with the other dependencies. Occasional communications by sailing vessels are also available.

Remittances may be made by both money orders and postal orders. There are direct exchanges with the United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Ceylon, Mozambique, Australia, Seychelles and Hong Kong; and through the intermediary of these offices, remittances may be made to almost any place. Remittances may also be made by telegraph to the United Kingdom, South Africa, India, Mozambique and Seychelles.

There is a telephone service which is managed by the Oriental Telephone Company whose main office is in Port Louis with which the rural districts are connected. Government offices

are linked together by a Government owned telephone system which is connected with the Oriental Telephone Company's lines.

Telegraphic communication is provided by cable and is maintained by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company whose chief local station is at Port Louis; the Company has also a station at Port Mathurin in Rodrigues. Cablegrams are transmitted to and from the rural Post Offices on Government lines.

Communication with the outer world is also maintained by a wireless station. The station works mainly with ships at sea, but there is also a service with Reunion Island. The Station was built by the Admiralty in 1915 for communication with ships at sea and with various naval bases in the Indian Ocean. It was closed during a short period in 1922-3 and was taken over by the Mauritius Government in June, 1923. There has been a 24-hour service since October, 1928.

During the cyclonic season from 11th November to 15th May, the station transmits to all ships and stations within range, at 0845 G.M.T. daily, a detailed weather report including observations made at Seychelles, Rodrigues, Reunion and Durban. The average yearly number of weather reports intercepted from ships at sea is 2,500. When a cyclone is in the vicinity the Government tug *Maurice* stationed in the harbour at Port Louis is manned and inland weather reports are transmitted by wireless telegraphy from the tug to all vessels in port, for the guidance of their masters. The wireless apparatus in the *Maurice* also acts as a stand-by in the event of accident to the aerial system at the main wireless station at Rose Belle. The Rose Belle Station is provided with a modern valve set in conformity with the Telecommunication Convention. The range of the Station is 1,000 miles.

There is a privately-owned local broadcasting station licensed by Government. The station transmits between 1900 and 2000 G.M.T. programmes consisting mainly of gramophone records.

Harbour.

Port Louis, the capital of the Colony, possesses the only navigable harbour for ocean-going ships, which is picturesquely situated on the north-west coast. A wide break in the ring of coral reefs surrounding the island, caused by the meeting of several rivers and streams, the Latanier, La Paix, Le Pouce, and Creole, gives access to the harbour, which has been dredged so as to provide deep-water accommodation for ten ships lying at berths in the channel and drawing from 24 to 31 feet of water. The harbour is flanked on the north by Fort George, a military post, and on the south by Fort William, which is abandoned. The mountains of the range behind Port Louis, including the

Pouce, 2,661 feet, and Pieter Both, 2,690 feet, are guiding beacons to ships by day. The lighthouses of Flat Island, the Colony's quarantine station six miles north of Mauritius, and Caves Point, five miles south of Port Louis on the cliff's edge, and the gas buoy to the north of the outer harbour entrance, direct ships approaching Port Louis by night. A tide gauge has been in operation for four years. The maximum rise of tide at ordinary springs is three feet, which diminishes to two or three inches at ordinary neaps. Dredging of the berths and channel by the Government plant is continuously in progress.

The Government of Mauritius is the Harbour Authority. The Government has from time to time sold or let to two lighterage companies various areas of land bordering the harbour. These two companies, the New Mauritius Dock Company and the Albion Dock Company, each own about 45 lighters with the necessary tugs, and undertake all the storage and lighterage of sugar. The British India Steam Navigation Company also own 30 lighters and two tugs. This Company mainly handles grain from the East, the rest of the general cargo being shared fairly evenly between the British India Company and the other two lighterage companies. Six years ago the Government built a deep-water quay, 500 feet long, with 32 feet of water alongside, which is able to deal with 100,000 tons of cargo per annum. Actually only 40,000 to 50,000 tons, chiefly petroleum products, Government coal, etc., are discharged annually at the quay.

A Government granary, capable of storing 300,000 bags of rice, was completed six years ago as a protection against the spread of plague in the Colony, and is now working satisfactorily.

Shipping.

There are now three regular lines of passenger steamers connecting Mauritius with the United Kingdom.

The service between Marseilles and Mauritius, performed by the Messageries Maritimes Company has been reduced to a three-weekly service for four months of the year and a fortnightly service for the remainder of the year; the average voyage takes from four to five weeks and includes a stay of about a week at Reunion either on the outward or homeward voyage.

Vessels of the K.P.M. (Dutch Line) leave Mauritius monthly for Durban and Cape Ports connecting with the Royal Mail steamers from the United Kingdom; and once a month for Mombasa via Durban.

Vessels also leave Durban once a month direct for Mauritius.

The K.P.M. Company proposes to put three new motor vessels of about 16,000 tons gross and a speed of about $17\frac{1}{2}$ knots on the Java—Mauritius—Africa Line. The voyage to England via

K.P.M. and Union Castle lines averages 32 days. The same voyage by the Messageries Maritimes Line via Marseilles would take from 31 to 36 days.

Vessels of the Bullard King Company call occasionally from the United Kingdom via Durban and Cape Ports, with tourists.

Cheap passages to the United Kingdom may, as usual, be secured during the sugar shipping season—October to March—the voyage averaging 40 days.

The fares from Mauritius to England vary as follows:—

- (i) per Messageries Maritimes steamers, from £76 to £32;
- (ii) per Union Castle Intermediate steamers from £89 to £36;
- (iii) per K.P.M. with transhipment at Durban from £117 and £92 to £48 and £44;
- (iv) per Bullard King & Company's steamers from £50 to £43 according to classes and types of steamers.

Government servants are allowed a rebate of from 15 to 20 per cent. by all the above companies.

The number of vessels and total tonnage entering and leaving the port during the past three years were as follows:—

INWARDS.

		1934.		1935.		1936.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Foreign	{ Steamers ...	207	641,389	200	625,175	206	641,150
	{ Sailing ships	2	345	—	—	1	88
		209	641,734	200	625,175	207	641,238
Coastings	{ Steamers ...	6	5,274	11	8,197	11	9,045
	{ Sailing ships	20	3,837	15	2,413	14	1,465
		26	9,111	26	10,610	25	10,510

OUTWARDS.

		1934.		1935.		1936.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Foreign	{ Steamers ...	207	643,543	201	622,274	205	645,315
	{ Sailing ships	1	40	—	—	1	88
		208	643,583	201	622,274	206	645,403
Coasting	{ Steamers ...	6	5,274	10	8,166	12	9,924
	{ Sailing ships	21	4,142	15	2,402	14	1,465
		27	9,416	25	10,568	26	11,389

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are three private banks in the Colony, viz. :—

- (a) The Mauritius Commercial Bank;
- (b) The Mercantile Bank of India; and
- (c) Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838, and has paid-up capital of Rs.2,000,000 made up of 10,000 shares of Rs.200 each. The total amount of deposits on 31st December, 1936, was Rs.7,015,671. The Mercantile Bank of India, Limited, took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius, Limited, on 3rd May, 1916. The total paid-up capital is £1,050,000. The deposits made locally on 31st December, 1936, amounted to Rs.2,931,523. Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has a paid-up capital of £4,975,500. The total deposits of the local Bank on 31st December, 1936, amounted to Rs.3,511,721. This Bank which is affiliated with Barclays Bank, Limited, was founded in 1925 and represents the amalgamation of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, the Colonial Bank (incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836), and the National Bank of South Africa Limited. A branch of the last-named bank was established in Mauritius in December, 1919. In February, 1926, its business was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation already mentioned.

Offices of the Government Savings Bank are established in the nine districts with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June, 1936, was 38,990 compared with 38,553 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs.6,495,031 as against Rs.6,236,739. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

Currency.

In March, 1934, an Ordinance was enacted “ to make provision with respect to the currency notes of the Colony and to place the issue of such currency notes upon a permanent basis ”. By this Ordinance the Currency Commissioners are required to issue, on demand, currency notes in exchange for sterling lodged with the Crown Agents in London, and to pay on demand sterling in London in exchange for currency notes lodged with them. The rate at which these exchanges are to be made is fixed at one rupee for one shilling and six pence sterling, and the minimum transaction is £5,000 or its equivalent.

The Currency Commissioners are entitled to charge commission not exceeding one and three-quarters per centum in addition to the cost of any telegrams sent in connexion with any transfer.

The effect has been to substitute for the Indian rupee a new paper rupee based on sterling and to limit official exchange fluctuations to a maximum spread of three and a half per centum.

Local commercial practice is such that the effective rate of exchange is the rate at which the banks sell sterling and not the mean between the buying and selling rates. At the time the Ordinance was introduced the rate was Rs.13.70 for £1 by telegraphic transfer, or approximately one rupee for one shilling and five pence halfpenny sterling. With a view to avoiding any sudden fluctuation in the actual rate of exchange, the commission which the Currency Commissioners were authorized to charge when selling sterling was fixed, in the first instance, at the maximum of one and three-quarters per cent., making the effective official exchange rate Rs.13.57 for £1 in respect of amounts of £5,000 or over. The rate charged by the Currency Commissioners when buying sterling has been fixed at one-quarter per cent.

The value of the currency is maintained by a Note Security Fund held by the Crown Agents and invested in Government Securities (other than those of the Colony). Profits arising from currency transactions and income from the investments of the Note Security Fund must be applied in the first instance to maintaining the Security Fund at a value equal to the face value of currency notes in circulation. If the value of the Note Security Fund reaches one hundred and ten per cent. of the face value of notes in circulation, all profits then accrue to the revenue of the Colony.

With a view to facilitating transactions between the Banks and between the Banks and the Treasury, new notes of Rs.1,000 denomination were issued in November, 1936.

Subsidiary silver coinage was introduced under an Ordinance passed in September, 1934. The coins are not normally redeemable but the seignorage on the issue is invested.

The value of the currency notes of five rupees, ten rupees and one thousand rupees, in circulation on 31st December, 1936, was Rs. 9,227,500 and that of Mauritius silver coins on the same date Rs.1,875,000.

The local unit of currency is the Mauritius rupee, equivalent to 1s. 6d. sterling, divided into 100 cents.

The coinage in circulation is the silver rupee, half rupee, quarter rupee and 20-cent and 10-cent pieces and the bronze 5-cent, 2-cent and 1-cent pieces.

Weights and Measures.

The metric system is in general use; the following special French and local measures are, however, still to be found:—

Measures of length and area:—

1 ligne Francaise	= 2·258 millimetres or 0·088 inch.
12 lignes	= 1 French inch.
12 French inches	= 1 French foot.
1 French foot	= 1·06 English feet.
1 lieue	= 2½ English miles (approx.).
1 gaulette	= 10 French feet.
1 arpent	= 40,000 square French feet or 1·04 acres.
1 toise	= 6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches.

Measures of capacity:—

1 barrique	= 50 gallons (cane juice, etc.).
1 tiercon	= 190 to 192 litres (molasses).
1 velte	= 7·45 litres (coconut oil).
1 bouteille	= 800 cubic centimetres (liquid).
1 chopine	= ½ bouteille.
1 corde	= 80 French cubic feet or 96·82 English cubic feet (firewood).

Measures of weight:—

1 Gamelle	= 5·250 kilogrammes.
1 livre	= 500 grammes or 1·10 English pounds.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department is responsible for all Government buildings, the sewerage of Port Louis, roads and bridges, the survey of Crown Lands, water supplies, and State irrigation.

Buildings.—Some of these, such as a time-ball tower in the Port Office, are of historical interest, dating from the time of the French Governor, Mahé de Labourdonnais, in 1740. Government House in Port Louis was then in project and was built between 1740 and 1767. Apart from the addition of a second storey, it now stands exactly as it was originally constructed. It contains the Governor's offices, in which are to be found the table on which the instrument of capitulation of the island was signed in 1810, a throne room, a council room, the council offices, a library, and quarters for the Governor and officials. The former and present residences of the Governors at "Mon Plaisir", Pamplémousses, and "Le Reduit", Moka, respectively, also date back to the French occupation. The value of the Government buildings is approximately 15 million rupees.

There are in the island one mental and nine general hospitals. An old hospital, the Grand River North-West Hospital, built in 1769 for seamen, is used when necessary as a quarantine station for plague.

Damage is caused to a considerable extent by white ants which are particularly active in the low-lying districts of the island.

Severe cyclones, which happily are not frequent, are responsible for a good deal of damage to water works, roads and buildings.

Sewerage Works of Port Louis.—The sewerage works were begun in 1900. In 1922, the scheme was revised by Messrs. Mansergh and Sons and the works have been carried out on the lines of their report. The construction works being now practically completed, present activities are concentrated on house service connexions, and a large portion of the town of Port Louis now has the water carriage system.

Bridges.—There exist 335 bridges on main and branch roads, the longest having spans of 150 feet. Only a few timber bridges remain and these are being gradually replaced by ferro concrete structures for double line of traffic and heavy loading.

Water Works.—The water supply of the town of Port Louis is obtained from the Grand River North-West at a distance of about four miles from the town at a level of 250 feet. This supply was handed over by the Municipality to the Public Works Department in 1922. The water is passed through sand filters and chlorinated. The capacity of the mains leading to the filters is 5 million gallons a day. The water is distributed to the town from two covered service reservoirs of a total capacity of 2 million gallons.

The water supply of Plaines Wilhems and of parts of Moka and Black River Districts is obtained from a storage reservoir called the Mare aux Vacoas, at an altitude of 1,825 feet. The capacity of the reservoir is now, after the raising of the dam, 1,641 million gallons. The catchment ground is entirely protected by forest lands. The whole of this water supply is filtered through sand filters at “ La Marie ”, about two miles below the reservoir, whence the supply to the town of Curepipe is pumped by hydraulic power, the supply to the other towns being by gravity. The water is distributed from six covered service reservoirs situated in the various zones of supply, their aggregate capacity being $5\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons. The population served by this supply is approximately 90,000, and the average daily consumption $3\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons. The Mare aux Vacoas water supply has been extended to the town of Port Louis. The supply is limited to 900,000 gallons per day. In this connexion a covered service reservoir at Petite Riviere of 750,000 gallons was completed and put into operation in 1931.

At the beginning of 1934, a Committee was appointed to report on the quality of the water of the Mare aux Vacoas supply, and

on measures that could be adopted to improve the quality. The report was received in June, 1934, and it concluded as follows:—

“ The purification of the Mare-aux-Vacoas waters by means of existing slow sand filtration is inefficacious and defective and does not constitute an adequate safeguard in the event, however unlikely, of harmful contamination of the raw water.”

The main recommendations of the Committee were to the effect that (i) the raw water should be taken from the lake as near as possible from the surface, (ii) the water should be aerated before the filters and (iii) the water chlorinated after filtration.

The works recommended by the Committee of the Mare-aux-Vacoas water have been proceeded with and completed.

The water supply to the villages and hamlets in the other districts comes from 27 different springs or streams. These supplies are not filtered but they are generally protected in their catchment areas by reserves of forest. The population depending on these various supplies is about 200,000 and is comprised mostly of the poorer classes. A large proportion of the daily consumption is distributed by means of public fountains.

Irrigation works.—Government storage irrigation works were begun in 1914 according to plans made by Mr. C. M. Harriott, C.S.I., C.I.E., M.Inst.C.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Central Provinces, India, and Consulting Engineer for Irrigation Works to the Government of Mauritius. The La Ferme scheme for the irrigation of the south-west of the island, between Grand River North West and River Dragon, has been completed, and the Nicoliere scheme to irrigate land in the north, was started in 1918. These two schemes cover 18,700 acres in the area below the level which enjoys 60 inches of rain and cannot be cultivated to the best advantage without irrigation water. The La Ferme scheme is dependent on a low-level reservoir of 2,500 million gallons, which was completed in 1918 and now irrigates 3,700 acres of land under sugarcane plantation. The plans for the Nicoliere scheme include a high-level storage reservoir at 1,300 feet altitude at Midlands, of 4,400 million gallons capacity, intended to fill a low-level reservoir at Nicoliere of a capacity of about 250 million gallons.

Owing to financial conditions the plans were first curtailed and the works afterwards suspended. The Feeder Channel which measures $16\frac{3}{4}$ miles from Midlands to Nicoliere and which had been completed by the end of 1931 with a reduced section has now been built up to its full section and concreted. The area covered by the existing curtailed plan is only 11,000 as compared with 15,000 acres in the original plan.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

Justice is administered in Mauritius by the Supreme Court and ten District Magistracies.

Supreme Court.—The Supreme Court sits in the capital (Port Louis) and is presided over by one Chief Judge and two Puisne Judges. It has jurisdiction in Civil and Criminal matters and also as a Court of Admiralty; it also decides appeals from the Supreme Court of Seychelles and the Inferior Courts of Mauritius. There is a Bankruptcy Division presided over by one of the Judges or by the Master and Registrar sitting as Judge in Bankruptcy. In 1936 the Supreme Court dealt with 254 civil matters out of 320 which were brought before it, as against 238 out of 298 in 1935. In 1936 14 persons were brought before this Court and tried on criminal charges and of these 11 were convicted. Criminal cases are tried by a Judge and a Jury. Divorce cases, bankruptcy matters and civil actions in which the sum involved is less than Rs.3,000 are heard by one Judge. Civil actions in respect of claims over Rs.3,000 are heard by two Judges. Where, however, the magnitude of the interests at stake or the importance of the questions of fact or law involved make it desirable, a case is heard by three Judges.

Magistrates.—There is a Magistrate's Court in each of the nine districts, the Courts in Port Louis and in Plaines Wilhems each sitting in two divisions. A Magistrate has jurisdiction in nearly all civil matters involving not more than Rs.1,000 and in all criminal matters with power to inflict not more than one year's imprisonment and Rs.1,000 fine. A Bench of three Magistrates may be instituted by law for the trial of certain offences and also at the request of the Procureur-General for nearly all offences, with jurisdiction extending to three years' penal servitude or imprisonment and fine possibly of Rs.3,000. An appeal lies of right to the Supreme Court within the limits stated above, both in fact and law, the several modes of reviewing the decisions being the same as in English Law. There is no system similar to the French Assistance Judiciaire but facilities are given to very poor litigants both before the Supreme and the Inferior Courts to obtain leave to sue *in forma pauperis*. In Supreme Court cases, counsel are ready to accept a pauper brief at the request of the Chief Judge, while in Assize cases counsel is always appointed without fee, for undefended prisoners. The Dependencies are visited periodically by one of two Magistrates supernumerary to the District Magistrates, whose services are also available in Mauritius.

The Dependency of Rodrigues is administered by a Magistrate who has the same jurisdiction in Rodrigues as a District Magistrate in Mauritius and whose duties are to a considerable extent administrative.

The Magistrates heard 11,481 civil cases and 11,048 ordinary criminal cases and petty offences and held:—

165 coroners' inquests;

24 preliminary inquiries into crimes and serious misdemeanours.

Police.

Organization.—The Mauritius Police Force has an establishment of 21 Gazetted Officers and 596 other ranks. The personnel of the Force is almost entirely recruited locally, there being at present only 13 Officers and Warrant Officers classified as "Home-born" who were posted from England or transferred from other Forces.

The Force is organized mainly as a "Civil" as distinct from a "Military" Police Force but recruits are instructed in the use of the rifle, an Armed Detachment is maintained at Headquarters and those who have qualified in preliminary tests fire a musketry course every year.

The establishment is divided into Headquarters Staff, Clerical Branch, Criminal Investigation Branch, Revenue and Motor Vehicle Control Branch, Training School, Harbour Police, Railway Police, District Police, Rodrigues Police and the Police Band.

Police Headquarters is situated in the historic Line Barracks of Port Louis and the District Police are distributed in 55 Stations of varying size and importance.

Crime.—The total number of offences of all kinds reported to the Police during the year 1936 was 23,986 which shows a slight decrease on the figure for 1935 which was 24,216 and also a decrease on the average of 24,000 for the past three years.

More than half of these offences are of a minor character or refer to Statutory and Revenue contraventions.

The more serious offences are classified as follows:—

Offences against the person	...	...	8,620 in 1936
"	"	"	8,442 in 1935
Offences against property	...	...	3,169 in 1936
"	"	"	2,929 in 1935

The number of persons prosecuted in connexion with these 23,986 offences was 9,946, of whom 8,918 were convicted, 591 otherwise disposed of and 437 pending trial at the end of the year.

Corresponding figures for the previous year were 10,589 persons prosecuted, 9,525 convicted, 537 otherwise disposed of and 527 pending trial at the end of the year.

Prisons.

Organization.—The Mauritius Prisons Department has an establishment of four Gazetted Officers, who are appointed from England, and 108 other ranks recruited locally.

The Department is placed under the charge of the Commissioner of Police, who holds the appointment of Superintendent of Prisons, and is responsible for the management and control of the two penal institutions of the Colony, Port Louis and Beau Bassin Prisons.

Port Louis Prison provides separate cell accommodation for 154 male prisoners, association cells for 40 women in a special block, and contains the offices of the Department and quarters for two Chief Officers and two matrons.

Every male convicted prisoner is sent to this Prison and on admission is classified as (1) Adult Felon, (2) Adult Hard Labour, (3) Adult Misdemeanant, (4) Juvenile Felon or Hard Labour, (5) Juvenile Misdemeanant or (6) Special.

Felons are prisoners sentenced to penal servitude and misdemeanants are those sentenced to imprisonment without Hard Labour or for failing to pay fines.

Groups (1), (2) and (4) are subdivided into First Offenders and Recidivists.

Prisoners classified in Group (1) and Recidivists of Group (2) sentenced to 14 days and upwards normally serve their sentence at Beau Bassin which contains 756 separate cells for males only while all misdemeanants, Special Class and well-conducted Adults and Juvenile First Offenders are accommodated at Port Louis.

Debtors, Women and Waiting Trial Prisoners are also given separate accommodation at Port Louis Prison.

Labour.—Hard labour consists of quarrying, stone breaking, cutting firewood, and agricultural work outside the Prisons, and tailoring, boot, sail and mattress making, tin-smith work and black-smithing, carpentry and cabinet making, blind, mat and basket making and baking inside the prison's workshop.

Population.—The number of persons admitted to Port Louis Prison during the year was 2,695, which is 228 less than in the previous year and 604 less than the average for the preceding five years. Of the 2,695 persons, 1,684 were convicted, of whom 1,179 were sentenced to imprisonment for one month or less. The convicted prisoners comprised 1,609 men and 75 women. The daily average population was 451·15 compared with 444·89 in 1935 and the number of persons in prison on 31st December, 1936, was 379 compared with 417 in 1935 and 424 in 1934.

Of the 379 persons in Prison, 355 were serving sentences and comprised 345 men and 10 women.

The number of persons who served sentences of imprisonment in lieu of paying fines was 854, including 39 women.

Health.—There were eight deaths in hospital as compared with 13 in the preceding year.

Industrial School.

The Barkly Industrial School for boys is an institution for the training of juvenile offenders and vagrants, boys living in criminal surroundings, and those who cannot be controlled at home or in orphanages, etc.

The School is under the supervision of the Commissioner of Police and has a resident staff of one Chief Officer and 11 Instructors and Assistants. It occupies a group of buildings formerly used as a hospital and comprises large grounds which are fully cultivated as gardens, etc.

The number of boys in the School at the end of the year was 91, compared with 77 in 1935 and 54 in 1934. The number of admissions was 48 and discharges 26 for the whole year.

A Visiting Committee instituted by law looks after the general welfare of the inmates of the School and exercises a beneficent influence on the institution.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Forty-five Ordinances were passed by Council of Government and assented to by the Governor between the 3rd of April and the 3rd of November, 1936.

The majority of these Ordinances deal with matters of domestic importance amongst which the following are of considerable importance.

Public Health.—Ordinance No. 11 of 1936 provides for an extension of the sewerage area of the town of Port Louis with consequential improvement in the health conditions likely to be derived therefrom.

Law and Order.—(i) Ordinance 41 of 1936 provides for the prevention of riots and the better preservation of the public peace.

(ii) Ordinance No. 29 amends the Penal Code Ordinance No. 6 of 1838, with reference to the counterfeiting of coins, seals and similar offences.

(iii) Ordinances Nos. 14 and 15 of 1936 provide better and more adequate measures for the deportation of undesirable persons.

Finance.—(i) Ordinance No. 1 and Ordinance No. 7 of 1936 provide for the establishment and financing of a local Agricultural Bank.

(ii) Ordinance No. 13 provides for the better control of the Government Savings Bank.

(iii) Ordinance No. 35 provides for the transfer of the balance of the Mauritius General Improvement and Development Fund to the general revenue and assets of the Colony.

(iv) Ordinance No. 31 provides for the control of the transport of sugar and fertilizers.

Judicature.—Ordinances Nos. 9 and 10 amend the District Court Constitution Ordinance with reference to the jurisdiction of the District Magistrates.

Civil Service.—Ordinance No. 43 of 1936 provides for a total recast of the law governing the grant of pensions, gratuities and allowances to Civil Servants in the Colony.

A list of the more important Ordinances is given in Appendix I to this Report.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony for the year ended 30th June, 1936, amounted to Rs.15,350,986, including Rs.42,000, the unexpended balance of the 1922 Loan, and was Rs.92,564 less than the Estimate and Rs.7,613,258 less than that of the previous year.

The expenditure for the same period was Rs.14,694,644, being Rs.455,722 below the Estimate and Rs.5,956,310 below that of the previous year.

The revenue during the financial year 1935-36 exceeded expenditure by Rs.656,342 and the surplus of assets over liabilities on 30th June, 1936, amounted to Rs.17,846,203.

Of the expenditure for 1935-36, Rs.4,946,200 were spent on "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.9,748,444 on "Other Charges". The corresponding figures for 1934-35 were Rs.4,934,509 for "Personal Emoluments" and Rs.15,716,445 on "Other Charges".

The following is a comparative statement of the revenue and expenditure for the last five years.

Year.	Revenue. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.
1931-32	12,160,279	17,704,574
1932-33	30,200,418	13,810,589
1933-34	16,567,110	14,634,339
1934-35	22,964,244*	20,650,954
1935-36	15,350,986	14,694,644

* Including Rs 7,882,380 Special Revenue.

The revenue normally becoming due and collected during the year 1932-33 was Rs.14,503,504, and the increase in the amount shown for that year was due to special adjustments comprising, *inter alia*, the following transfers to Revenue:—

	Rs.
Widows' and Orphans' Fund	5,032,347·84
Government Scholarship Fund	539,769·17
Improvement and Development Fund	6,317,717·98
Mauritius Loan, 1922	1,362,678·99
Unexpended balance, Sugar Industry Loan, 1929 ...	7,315·90
	<hr/>
	13,259,829·88

The Colonial Government pays a military contribution of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of its revenue (total revenue exclusive of land sales, irrigation, Mare aux Vacoas and other water works revenue, and special export duty on sugar) towards the cost of the garrison maintained in the Colony by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

The contribution was, however, limited to £42,000 for the year 1935-36 to cover the actual cost of the garrison during the year.

Public Debt.

The Public Debt of the Colony on 30th June, 1936, was £2,878,995. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of £1,836,347 compared with £1,743,372 on 30th June, 1935.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30th June, 1936.

<i>Liabilities.</i>				<i>Assets.</i>			
			<i>Rs.</i>				<i>Rs.</i>
Other Colonial Govern-			37,666	Cash Balances	...	...	6,705,223
ments.				Imprests	...	...	2,750
Deposits	...	...	655,244	Advances	...	...	12,026,591
Loan Funds Unexpended...			223,191	Unallocated Stores	...		440,060
Appropriated Funds	...		9,976,706	Appropriated Funds In-			9,564,386
Balance : Surplus of Assets			17,846,203	vested.			
over Liabilities at 30th							
June, 1936.							
			<hr/> Rs. 28,739,010 <hr/>				<hr/> Rs. 28,739,010 <hr/>

Description of the Main Heads of Taxation and their Yield.

The main heads of taxation with their yield for the current year as compared with the preceding year are the following:—

			<i>1934-35.</i>	<i>1935-36.</i>
			<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Customs—Import duties	...	...	4,422,207	4,533,469
„ —Export duties	...	...	648,314	450,777
Excise duty on rum	...	...	1,590,107	1,680,232
Licence duties	...	...	1,111,627	1,099,124
Tobacco excise	...	...	1,200,427	1,247,492
Taxes on vehicles and animals	...	...	399,313	424,477
House tax	...	...	225,425	208,411
Poll tax	...	...	540,978	429,502

Customs Duties.

The Revenue from Customs duties for the year 1936 was Rs.4,640,335 for Imports and Rs.566,369 for Exports.

The figures for the two previous years were:—

			<i>Import duty.</i>	<i>Export duty.</i>
			<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
1935	...	...	4,650,711	816,385
1934	...	...	4,899,209	738,624

Customs Tariff (Summarized).

The following shows the rates of duty on the principal imports and exports on the 31st of December, 1936:—

IMPORTS.

Rice R. 0.63 per 100 kilos.	Wines in casks up to 14°.	Rs. 22.00 per hectolitre.
Dholl Rs. 1.14 per 100 kilos.	Wines in cases up to 14° (still).	R. 0.33 per litre.
Flour R. 0.94 per 100 kilos.	Spirits (proof) ...	Rs. 6.87 per litre.
Fertilizers ... R. 0.11 to Rs. 1.10 per 100 kilos.	Tobacco, manufactured.	Rs. 15.00 per litre.
Petroleum oil ... Rs. 5.28 per hectolitre.	Tobacco, cigarettes.	Rs. 16.50 per kilo.
Petroleum spirits Rs. 14.00 per hectolitre.	Vegetable oil, other than olive.	Rs. 5.50 to Rs. 9.00 per 100 kilos.
Soap, common... Rs. 1.93 per 100 kilos.	Most manufactured articles.	5 to 55 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> , with an average of about 15 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .

EXPORTS.

*Sugar R. 0.46 per 100 kilos.	†Aloe fibre ...	Rs. 4.0 per 1,000 kilos.
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NOTE.—*The duty on sugar is only for special purposes as under:—

R. 0.03 per cent. kilos for destruction of *Phytalis Smithi*;

R. 0.03 „ „ „ „ College of Agriculture;

R. 0.04 „ „ „ „ Sugar Industry Reserve Fund;

R. 0.036 „ „ „ „ in refund of loans.

† The duty on aloe fibre includes Rs. 3 per 1,000 kilos in refund of loan to the hemp industry.

Principal Preferential Rates on Imports.

	<i>Preferential.</i>	<i>General.</i>
Motor vehicles of all kinds, including tyres and tubes.	5.5 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .	36.66 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .
Silk manufactures (including artificial silk).	16.5 „ „ „ „ or R. 0.55 per kilo whichever is the higher.	55 „ „ „ „ or R. 1.75 per kilo
Indigo	Rs. 1.10 per kilo.	Rs. 2.75 per kilo.
Cement	R. 0.30 per 100 kilos.	R. 1.00 per 100 kilos.
Cinema films	Free.	R. 0.04 per metre.
Machinery, industrial...	Rs. 1.45 per 100 kilos.	5.5 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .
Cotton manufactures ...	5 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .	26 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> , and also specific rates in certain cases.
Hardware	11 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .	22 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .
Coal	8 cents per 100 kilos.	42 cents per 100 kilos.

Excise and Stamp Duties.

The duty on rum for home consumption for potable use is Rs.2.75 per litre of 23 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 12 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

Four distilleries worked periodically during 1936. Three of these distilleries form an annexe to sugar mills; in all cases spirits are distilled from molasses and the strength of the spirits produced varies from 30 to 42 degrees Cartier. The bulk is produced at 39 degrees Cartier or below and when broken down to 23 degrees Cartier, is consumed locally as potable rum, though it has the general characteristics of rectified spirit.

The remainder of the spirits produced is used after denaturation or compounding for lighting and heating and power purposes; for the preparation of medicinal tinctures, drugs, perfumed spirits and for the manufacture of vinegar. Attempts have been made to find an export market for locally produced alcohol but with little success. The quantity exported was 22,267 litres for the period July, 1935, to June, 1936, as compared with 28,732 litres for the previous period.

The duty on spirits to be denaturated for heating and lighting is 4 cents per litre at 36 degrees Cartier and an additional duty of 4 cents per hectolitre or fraction thereof for every degree above 36 degrees Cartier.

Owing to the quantity of electrical power available and the organization for its distribution, comparatively little use is made of locally produced alcohol for lighting purposes. Where electrical power is not available kerosene is a more popular illuminant. The poorest classes, who require little illumination since they mostly retire at nightfall, use coconut oil or similar local product. There is little call for artificial heating of houses and most cooking is done by locally produced wood charcoal on charcoal stoves. Locally produced alcohol might be used largely for cooking purposes, were a satisfactory type of stove available. The import duty on denaturated or methylated alcohol is 0·33 cents per litre.

The quantity of spirits denaturated for heating and lighting purposes during the last two years is shown below:—

1934-35.		1935-36.	
<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Excise duty.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Excise duty.</i>
<i>Litres.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Litres.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
138,250	5,663·62	141,410	5,764·13

The duty on spirits to be denaturated for use as motor fuel is 4 cents per litre or fraction thereof at any degree Cartier. Attempts on a commercial scale to utilize locally produced alcohol in various forms for power purposes have been in progress for about 19 years but have had little success. The increasing use of heavy fuel oil and compression ignition type engines make any further development in the use of the local alcohol improbable in present circumstances. Protection is given to the local industry by imposing a Customs duty on imported motor spirits of Rs.14·00 per hectolitre.

The following statement shows the quantity of spirits denaturated during the last two years for use as industrial alcohol:—

1934-35.		1935-36.	
Quantity.	Excise duty.	Quantity.	Excise duty.
Litres.	Rs.	Litres.	Rs.
268,010	10,720.40	243,800	9,752.0

The duty on alcohol for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs is 10 cents per litre at any degree, but the duty on alcohol delivered for the preparation of "Alcoolats" in accordance with the formulae laid down in the British Pharmacopoeia or the French Codex or any other medicinal tinctures and drugs as notified in Gazette is Rs.2.50 per litre at 23 degrees Cartier, with an additional duty of 10 cents per litre for every degree above 23 degrees Cartier.

With the exception of certain traditional local preparations locally produced tinctures, etc., have provided little competition to the imported articles which pay an import duty at 13.2 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The following table shows the quantity of alcohol used during the last two years for the preparation of medicinal tinctures and drugs:—

1934-35.		1935-36.	
Quantity.	Excise duty.	Quantity.	Excise duty.
Litres.	Rs.	Litres.	Rs.
7,846	1,399.30	9,853	1,380.10

The duty on alcohol delivered for the manufacture of perfumed spirits is 50 cents per litre. The position as regards locally produced perfumed spirits is similar to that of medicinal tinctures. One or two preparations are in popular local demand but in spite of the fairly high protective import duty of 33 per cent. *ad valorem*, there is little demand for other products. Attempts have recently been made to find an export market by selling perfumery as ships' stores. It is too early yet to forecast whether this venture is likely develop to any degree.

The quantity of spirits issued for the manufacture of perfumed spirits during the last two years was as follows:—

1934-35.		1935-36.	
Quantity.	Excise duty.	Quantity.	Excise duty.
Litres.	Rs.	Litres.	Rs.
7,932	3,966.00	6,130	3,065.00

The duty on vinegar is Rs.1.70 per hectolitre, on vinegar not exceeding 8 degrees of strength by acidimeter and an additional duty of 18 cents per degree and per hectolitre on all vinegar above 8 degrees.

Locally-produced vinegar is manufactured exclusively by the slow oxidation of alcohol. This small industry gives indication of development. The production figures for the past years were:—

			<i>Amount of duty.</i>	
			<i>Litres.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
July 1934 to June 1935	...		21,047	357.80
„ 1935 „ „ 1936	...		24,500	419.96

The corresponding import duty on vinegar is Rs.3.50 per hectolitre, full rate and Rs.1.65 preferential rate.

According to the Excise figures the number of litres of spirits distilled in 1935-6 (July to June) was 966,627, as compared with an average of 961,254 litres for the past five years.

The duty on wine and other liquor (excepting rum and compounded rum) manufactured in the Colony which contain more than four degrees alcohol according to Gay Lussac's alcoholometer is as follows:—

(i) on all such liquor not exceeding 14 degrees Gay Lussac's alcoholometer a duty of 15 cents per litre;

(ii) on all such liquor exceeding 14 degrees a duty at the same rate and on the same scale as the Customs duty on wine payable under the Customs Tariff Ordinance.

Practically no grapes are grown in Mauritius and the local wine is produced from imported dried fruits, principally raisins, sugar and other ingredients. Attempts to produce wine from local fruits such as pineapples, guavas, bananas, etc., have not been successful. There has been a slight development in the wine industry during the past year from the point of view of quantity, and considerable research work is being done in the improvement of the quality of the produce and in studying the many variations in fermentation largely caused by differences in temperature, atmospheric humidity, etc.

Local wine issued:—

				<i>Litres.</i>
July, 1934 to June, 1935	...	...	...	265,947
„ 1935 „ „ 1936	...	...	...	325,366
For the calendar year, 1935	...	...	...	277,683
„ „ „ „ 1936	...	...	...	350,678

An excise duty of Rs.4 per kilog. is charged on leaf tobacco for the manufacture of tobacco for local consumption.

According to the official figures, the quantity of tobacco manufactured in the year 1936 was 362,587 kilos. as compared with Ks.337,378.975 gms. in 1935.

The Excise duty collected on tobacco during the last two financial years is given below:—

				<i>1934-35.</i>	<i>1935-36.</i>
				<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
Tobacco	...	...	...	1,200,427.53	1,247,492.40

The figures for the calendar year are:—

	Year 1935. Rs.	Year 1936. Rs.
Tobacco Excise	1,187,683·93	1,281,086·00

The Government Tobacco Warehouse, controlled by the Tobacco Board is proving a most useful institution for the grading and general control of tobacco grown in the Colony. It ensures for the planters a ready market for their crop, and for the manufacturers an assured source of supply at controlled prices of graded leaf. In spite of its efforts the Board has so far been unable to gain any export trade.

The Stamp Laws were amended and consolidated by the passing on 23rd November, 1926, of Ordinance 22 of 1926. This Ordinance was put into force on 23rd July, 1927, by Proclamation No. 32 of 1927.

Stamp duties are of three kinds:—

- (1) A duty in proportion to the size of the paper used;
- (2) A fixed duty; and
- (3) An *ad valorem* duty.

The Stamp Ordinance No. 22 of 1926 was amended in 1932 by the passing of Ordinance No. 26 of 1932 to provide for the increase from 4 to 10 cents of the stamp duty on cheques drawn on banks in and out of the Colony and on receipts as defined in Article 2 (5) of the Stamp (Consolidated) Ordinance, 1926.

House Tax.

Rates.—One per cent. per annum on any building assessed over Rs.1,000.

Yield.—The amount collected during the financial year 1935-6 was Rs.208,411.

Method of assessment.—Any building liable to the house tax is assessed according to its full and fair value. In arriving at this figure, the valuer takes into consideration the actual or probable rent a tenant may be reasonably expected to pay for such building.

Method of collection.—For the purpose of collecting the house tax when the assessment arrived at is final for the year, notices for payment are served upon owners of buildings and the tax is paid to the Cashier of the district in which it is levied or to the Chief Cashier, Treasury.

Graduated Poll Tax.

A Graduated Poll Tax was imposed in 1934 on all taxable income accruing in, derived from, or received in the Colony during the year preceding the year of assessment, subject to specified exemptions.

The tax, which falls on residents and non-residents is peculiar to Mauritius and payable in half-yearly instalments by persons (including legal entities) whose income exceeds Rs.5,000.

The tax scale rises from Rs.50 (with marginal relief) on incomes exceeding Rs.5,000 but not exceeding Rs.7,000 to Rs.5,150 on incomes exceeding Rs.60,000 but not exceeding Rs.70,000. The tax on incomes exceeding Rs.70,000 is Rs.6,150.

The tax must be tendered with a Return from the Taxpayer, but the Commissioner may refuse the Return and raise an assessment subject to a right of objection and appeal to the High Court.

No provision exists for:—

- (a) Losses to be carried forward.
- (b) Personal or depreciation allowances.
- (c) Dominion Income Tax Relief.
- (d) Deduction of tax at source.

The main Ordinance was amended in 1935 chiefly to facilitate an equitable administration of the tax as regards allowances for interest paid, and to provide for reciprocation in exemption of profits from the business of Shipping.

Yield.—The amount collected for 1934-5 was Rs.540,566 but, as a result of the poor sugar crop in 1934, the Poll Tax collections for 1935-6 declined to Rs.429,502. The estimated yield for 1936-7 is Rs.580,000.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The sugar crop reaped during the year was an exceptionally good one, the total sugar production for the year reaching the record figure of 300·34 thousand metric tons against an average production of 250 thousand metric tons for the years 1930 to 1935, exclusive of the years 1931 and 1934 when on account of adverse climatic conditions, the crops were reduced to 164,010 and 178,860 thousand metric tons respectively.

There was also an increase in sugar prices during the year, but the rise came too late to have much effect on the sale of the year's crop. The large yield was however an important set-off to the continued low prices obtained for sugar during recent years and made it possible to resume the collection of the export duty on sugar of Rs.3.60 per ton levied in repayment of the Sugar Industry Loans referred to in Ordinance No. 15 of 1929, of which only a fraction of about 35 per cent. was collected in 1935 in view of the heavy deficit from the reduced crop of the year 1934 and the extremely depressed market conditions of the industry.

The Colony continued to enjoy the benefit of the General Imperial Preference amounting to about 3s. 9d. on all Colonial sugars entering the United Kingdom and of a special preference

of 3s. per cwt. on a quantity of Colonial sugars limited to 360,000 tons, the quota of Mauritius sugars entitled to the latter preference being fixed at 112,400 tons. Sugars consigned to Canada also benefit by a preference which is at least as profitable to the producer as the general preference accorded by the United Kingdom.

As exports of sugar from Mauritius to countries other than the United Kingdom and Canada are insignificant and the quantity consumed locally is about ten to eleven thousand tons annually, the portion of the 1936 crop available for export to the United Kingdom and Canada is about 290,000 tons. The total preference on this quantity of sugar, calculated at the rates given above, amounts to roughly £1,425,000.

On the recommendation of a Committee appointed by the Governor in 1934 to investigate the problem of unemployment in the Colony various works of public utility were undertaken towards the end of that year and during the year 1935 in order to give employment to as many persons as possible who were out of work. Relief works continued in progress during the whole of the year 1936, chiefly in the districts of Port Louis and Plaines Wilhems where the pressure of unemployment is more severe.

The island was visited by the French cruiser *Jeanne d'Arc* from the 25th to the 28th February, 1936, and by H.M.S. *Emerald* from the 7th to the 20th August, 1936.

His Excellency Sir W. E. F. Jackson, whose normal term of office as Governor of Mauritius was due to expire on the 30th August, 1936, left the Colony on leave of absence on the 7th April, 1936. While in England, the Governor was asked to extend his service in Mauritius in order to enable him to complete certain outstanding tasks of importance in the Colony with which he had been closely connected. He returned to Mauritius on the 3rd December, 1936.

APPENDIX I.

Forty-five Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor during the year 1936, the more important to which are tabulated as follows:—

<i>No.</i>	<i>Title.</i>
1	For establishing and regulating the Mauritius Agricultural Bank.
7	To make provision for raising a loan for the purpose of financing the Mauritius Agricultural Bank.
9	To amend the District Courts Constitution Ordinance, 1888.
10	To amend the Lesser Dependencies Ordinance, 1904.
11	To amend the Port Louis Sewerage Ordinance, 1905.
13	To amend and consolidate the law relative to the Government Savings Bank.
14	To regulate the deportation of undesirable aliens.
15	To regulate the deportation of undesirable British subjects.
27	To amend Ordinance No. 6 of 1838 commonly called the Penal Code.
29	To amend Ordinance No. 6 of 1838 commonly called the Penal Code.
31	To control and restrict the transport of sugar and fertilizers.
35	To legalise the transfer to the General Revenue of the balance of the Mauritius General Improvement and Development Fund.
36	To provide that Railway rates for the conveyance of sugar and fertilizers shall not be increased during a certain period.
41	To provide for the prevention of riots.
43	For regulating Pensions, Gratuities and Allowances to be granted in respect of offices held in His Majesty's Civil Service in this Colony.

APPENDIX II.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO MAURITIUS WHICH ARE OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Title.	Agents for Sale.	Price.
T'Eylandt Mauritius: Esquisses Historiques, 1698-1710.*	Out of print.	—
L'Ile de France: Esquisses Historiques, 1715-1833. By Albert Pitot.*	ditto	—
Statistiques de l'Ile Maurice et ses Dependences (Mauritius, 1886). By Baron d'Unienville.*	ditto	—
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Le Patois Creole Mauricien (Mauritius, 1880). By Charles Baissac.	ditto	—
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Mauritius Illustrated. By A. MacMillan.*	ditto	—

* May be consulted in the Colonial Office Library.

Title.	Agents for Sale.	Price.
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Financial situation of Mauritius; Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1931.*	ditto	4s. 6d.
Mauritius Blue Book*	Crown Agents for the Colonies.	Rs. 5.84.
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Report on the Anophelinae of Mauritius and on certain aspects of Malaria in the Colony. By Malcolm E. MacGregor.*	Colonial Secretary's Office, Mauritius.	Rs. 10.
Report on Medical and Sanitary matters in Mauritius. By Andrew Balfour, C.B., C.M.G., M.D., B.Sc., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H.*	ditto	Rs. 15.
Mauritius Almanach and Commercial Handbook. By Andre Bax.*	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd., Mauritius.	Rs. 10.
L'Ile Maurice (Mauritius, 1921). By W. Edward Hart.*	ditto	Rs. 3.
Island of Mauritius. By Raymond Philogene.*	ditto	—
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Sea Fights and Corsairs of the Indian Ocean. By H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E.	Mauritius.	Rs. 50.
La pluie a l'Ile Maurice, Lat. 20° 5' 39" S. Long. 57° 33' 18" E., By Marc Herchenroder.	The General Printing and Stationery Co., Ltd.	Rs. 5.
Port Louis—Deux Siecles d'Histoire, 1735-1935. By A. Toussaint.	The Auction Mart, Port Louis.	1st Edition, Rs. 25. 2nd Edition, Rs. 8.

* May be consulted in the Colonial Office Library.

MAP OF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS

I. aux
Serpents

ROUND I.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Miles

Scale 8 Miles to the Inch

Reduced from the Military Map
By L.T. Louis-Auguste
Surveyor R.W.D.

Meridian thro' POUCE
57° 51' 50" E. Greenwich

FLAT Island
Gabriel I.

Coin de Mire



DISTRICTS

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
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